

Newsletter

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Newsletter

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Cover Illustration: View from the south of Operation 3, Level Ic, Abydos Settlement Site Project 1991 residential zone excavations. Visible are the large brick silos (behind the workman in the right center) and a number of other walls of one of the architectural complexes excavated in 1991. A number of architectural features were preserved to a height of approximately two meters.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIETAL ORGANIZATION IN EARLY HISTORIC EGYPT

Introductory Report on 1991-92 Fieldwork Conducted
at the Abydos Settlement Site

Matthew Douglas Adams

Editor's Note: Matthew Adams is completing a dissertation for the Department of Anthropology and Oriental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He received a fellowship from ARCE to work on "Socio-economic organization and change at a Provincial Egyptian Settlement in the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period." While he was in Abydos working on this project, he participated in the uncovering of the royal fleet from the second dynasty period."

I. Introduction

One of the most significant areas of inquiry into ancient Egypt, and until fairly recently one of the most neglected, is the nature of settlement in the Nile Valley and Delta. Although a tremendous amount of information has been acquired about ancient Egyptian society from the study of texts, monumental architecture, and

cemeteries, the detailed study of Egyptian cities, towns, and villages has, for much of the history of Egyptian archaeology, not been a major part of scholarly research, with a few exceptions (e.g. Kahun, el-Amarna). Thus a major set of data with which to inform debate on the nature of ancient Egyptian society has remained virtually untapped.

In the last quarter century, significant archaeological work has been done (or has resumed, after a long hiatus) at a number of settlement sites (cf. Fig. 1 for sites mentioned in the text). This work has produced a wealth of information, but many of these sites are either geographically peripheral or temporally limited, and are not necessarily representative of settlement in the Nile Valley proper or of all periods. Elephantine is on the border with Nubia, and Balat far from the Nile Valley in Dakhla Oasis. El-Amarna, with its brief period of occupation in the New Kingdom, cannot be seen as completely representative of most town sites, which were often continuously occupied for centuries. Major efforts have recently been undertaken in the Delta, at several town sites such as Kom el-Hisn, Buto, Tell ed-D'aba, Mendes, and others, to understand the nature of settlement in this part of Egypt. The distribution of work leaves a vast stretch of the Nile Valley, from Hierakonpolis in the south to the Delta, which is virtually unknown archaeologically in terms of settlement in the early historic period (Early Dynastic, Old Kingdom, and First Intermediate Period), which in many ways can be considered the "formative" period in the evolution of ancient Egyptian society. This deficit exists despite the fact that ancient textual sources document the existence of many scores of settlements throughout the region.

The research undertaken by the present writer, with the support of a fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt, was designed to help fill this geographical and temporal gap, as well as to add significantly to the understanding of Egyptian settlement and society in general. It was proposed to investigate a major component of the ancient town site at Abydos, long known as a major cult center, but which textual data and previous archaeological work suggested was a major town in the early historic period, one which played a significant role in the political and socio-economic organization of its region and which could be seen as representative of the provincial level in the Egyptian settlement hierarchy. It was known from earlier work on the site that occupation levels belonging to the First Intermediate Period and Old Kingdom were easily accessible. The Old Kingdom is generally taken to be a period characterized by a strong centralized state administration, whereas the succeeding First Intermediate Period is generally seen as lacking centralized control and as characterized by provincial autonomy and political instability. By studying the remains of a "residential zone" from these periods, with an emphasis on defining the patterns of spatial-functional variability and socio-economic organization, models of the organiza-

tion of both Egyptian settlements and Egyptian society could be tested and augmented.

Abydos is located on the west bank of the Nile, approximately 430km. south of modern Cairo. Greater Abydos (Fig. 2), cult center first of Khentiyamentiu and later Osiris, consists of a number of major components which illustrate the complex history of the site (Kemp 1975). There are a number of prehistoric cemeteries and traces of prehistoric settlements, possibly as early as Naqada I (Patch 1991, 1984). At Umm el-Qa'ab is a prehistoric cemetery which eventually became the burial place of the kings of Dynasty I and two from Dynasty II (Kaiser and Dreyer 1982). These kings also built large funerary enclosures (*Talbezirke*) in near the edge of the cultivation in what later became the North Cemetery (O'Connor 1989). One of these enclosures, the Shunet el-Zebib, still dominates the landscape. Major cemeteries span many periods. The Middle Cemetery was the principal place of burial during the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period, while in the Middle Kingdom and later, burial activity expanded across a shallow desert wadi to the North Cemetery (Richards 1992, 1988). Stretching to the south of the primary cemetery zones, major cult establishments are known from the Middle and New Kingdoms, including a cenotaph complex for



Figure 1—Map of Egypt.

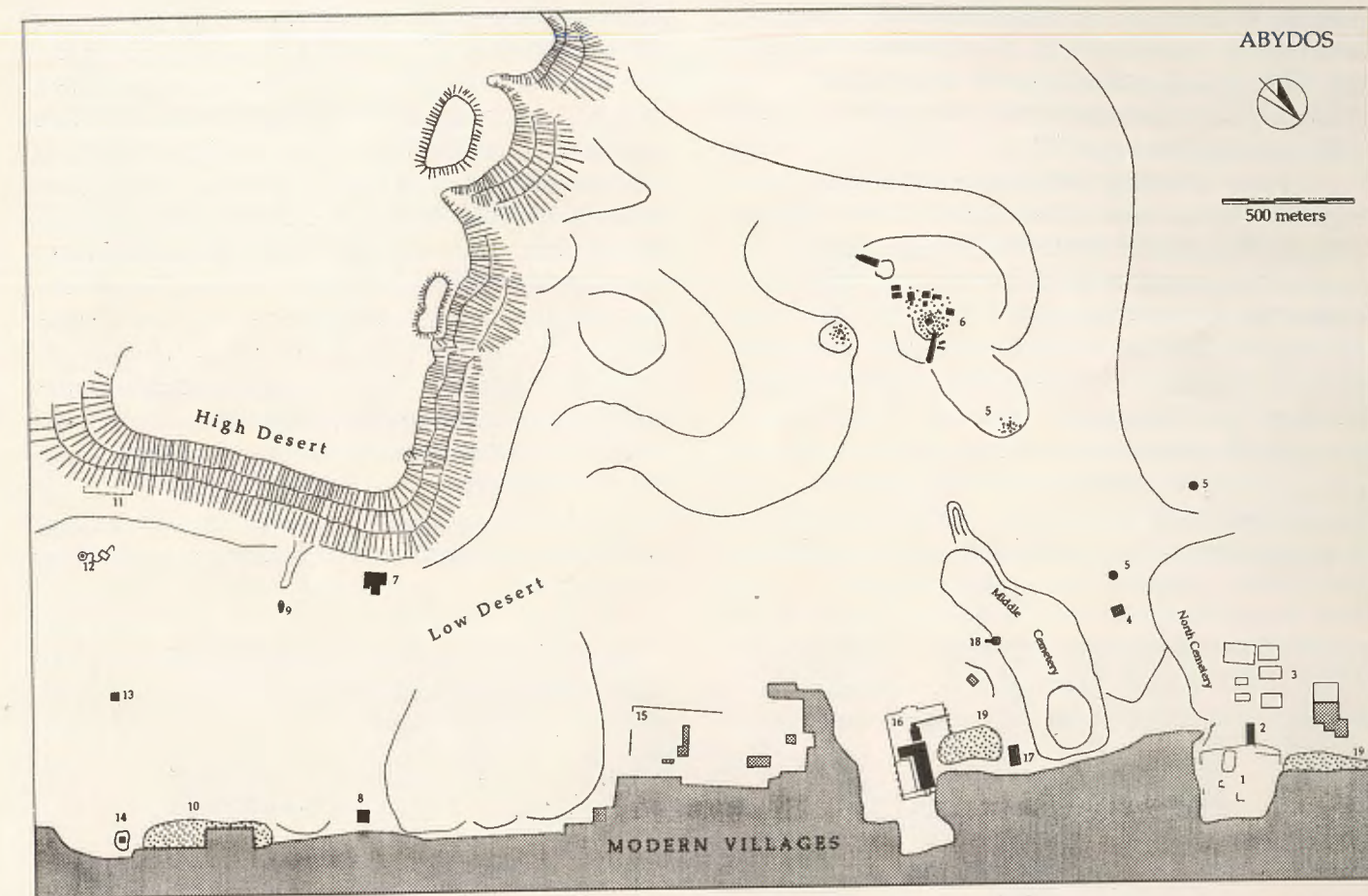


Figure 2—Sketch map of greater Abydos (after Kemp 1975:29-30). Key: (1) Area of the town site of the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period; (2) Ramesses II temple, Dynasty XIX; (3) Early Dynastic royal funerary enclosures; (4) Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition house; (5) Chapels of the New Kingdom or later; (6) Umm el-Qa'ab, Pre- and Early Dynastic royal tombs; (7) Cenotaph complex of Senwosret III, Dynasty XII (?); (8) Valley temple of Senwosret III, Dynasty XII; (9) Unfinished royal cenotaph, Dynasty XII (?); (10) Area of Middle (?) and New Kingdom settlement remains; (11) Terrace temple of Ahmose, Dynasty XVIII; (12) Underground cenotaph (?), Dynasty XVIII; (13) Tetisheri chapel, Dynasty XVIII; (14) Pyramid and temple complex of Ahmose, Dynasty XVIII; (15) Mudbrick enclosure, undated; (16) Temple of Seti I, Dynasty XIX; (17) Temple of Ramesses II, Dynasty XIX; (18) Dog hypogeum and well, Late/Hellenistic-Roman Periods; (19) Areas of late (Hellenistic-Roman?) settlement.

Senwosret III of Dynasty XII and another for Ahmose of Dynasty XVIII.

During the late prehistoric (Naqada III) and early historic (Early Dynastic, Old Kingdom, and First Intermediate Periods) a major town developed in the area of the present Kom el-Sultan in north Abydos (Figs. 2, 3). The work of Petrie (1902, 1903) in part of this area revealed the existence of cult buildings belonging to several periods, from the Early Dynastic through the Late Period, as well as town remains belonging to the late prehistoric and Early Dynastic periods. Kemp's 1976 examination of the exposed architecture and stratigraphy at the site confirmed that there were major deposits of occupation debris belonging to the Early Dynastic, Old Kingdom, and First Intermediate Periods (Kemp 1977). Test excavations carried out in 1979 by the University of Pennsylvania-Yale University Expedition to Abydos and directed by

David O'Connor exposed well preserved mudbrick architecture and a number of functionally differing areas (including domestic and industrial activity) belonging to the First Intermediate Period and Old Kingdom.

II. The Program of Research at Abydos

The present research was conducted as part of the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition's¹ Abydos Settlement Site Project (David O'Connor, Director), and was designed as both independent research and as part of the initial stage of a long-term program of investigation at the Abydos settlement site. The aim of the work was to define in detail the nature of the residential area first revealed in 1979. To fulfill this goal area excavations were conducted adjacent to one of the 1979 test units. At the same time, the larger Abydos Settlement Site Project was conducting a multifaceted

program of investigation, which consisted of mapping, core testing, test excavations, re-excavation of some of the 1979 units, and new area excavations. The fieldwork was conducted during the period October, 1991, through January, 1992.

Field recording during excavation was greatly enhanced by the use of the COMPASS (Computer Mapping Program for Archaeological Sites and Survey) system, developed at the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA) of the University Museum. Using an electronic total station and data collector computers, this system permits rapid and accurate three dimensional recording of architecture, features, all excavated deposits, in addition to point proveniencing of artifacts on floors. This data was downloaded daily to a desktop computer, in which mapping software builds a three-dimensional model of

the excavation. Computerized mapping was, of course, only part of an overall recording system that also includes notes and detailed field drawings, plans, sections, and photographs. Attached to this system are a number of relational databases, which were used for the initial logging of all bags of artifacts, samples, and small finds. Maps and plans, as well as provenience and bag lists can be generated daily, to be checked by area supervisors and analytical specialists. This greatly increases the accuracy and efficiency of field recording, which in turn permits the acceleration of the excavation process. Use of the COMPASS system permitted the relatively large exposures of the First Intermediate Period levels of Abydos which were accomplished during the 1991 field season.

Excavations began 2 November and ran for approximately 7 weeks. The area excavations which

were to focus on the "residential zone" were placed contiguous to one of the test units from the 1979 work of the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition. The purpose was to define, as fully as possible, the spatial layout and functional patterns of a residential area of the town, with particular emphasis given to the understanding the patterns of socio-economic organization within this component of the ancient community.

Excavations consisted of seven 10 by 10 meter squares (Figs. 4 [Operations 1-4, 7-9], 5) and a triangular unit placed to aid in stratigraphically correlating the new excavations with those from 1979 (Operation 6). The detailed recording and analysis of the complex stratigraphy revealed during the excavations have so far revealed two major architectural levels, each consisting of several phases of use. The upper (Level I) has been dated, on the basis of the ceramics and other artifact parallels, to the First Intermediate Period, and the lower (Level II) to the Old Kingdom. Because of time constraints, excavation reached the Old Kingdom level in only limited areas, and the majority of the season was spent in the detailed

investigation of the First Intermediate Period occupation.

Belonging to this level were at least six house complexes (Fig. 4). Architectural units were intercalated in a quite organic way, each with several rooms, some with interior courtyards (in Operations 3 and 6). In addition, there is one small street or alleyway (in Operations 2, 4, and 3), with at least three entries opening off it, and one large exterior open space (in Operation 4). Several of the structures were built against the large wall of an architectural complex located in 1979. This structure, the function of which is presently unclear, was in use from the early Old Kingdom through the First Intermediate Period, and may have been built even earlier.

All architecture is of mudbrick, with walls of variable thickness (one to three bricks—approx. 15-80 cm.). Within each of the houses, rooms were connected by doorways which often had brick or wood thresholds, and sometimes a stone door pivot. Every room contained a sequence of floor surfaces, which demonstrate substantial use-histories and changing

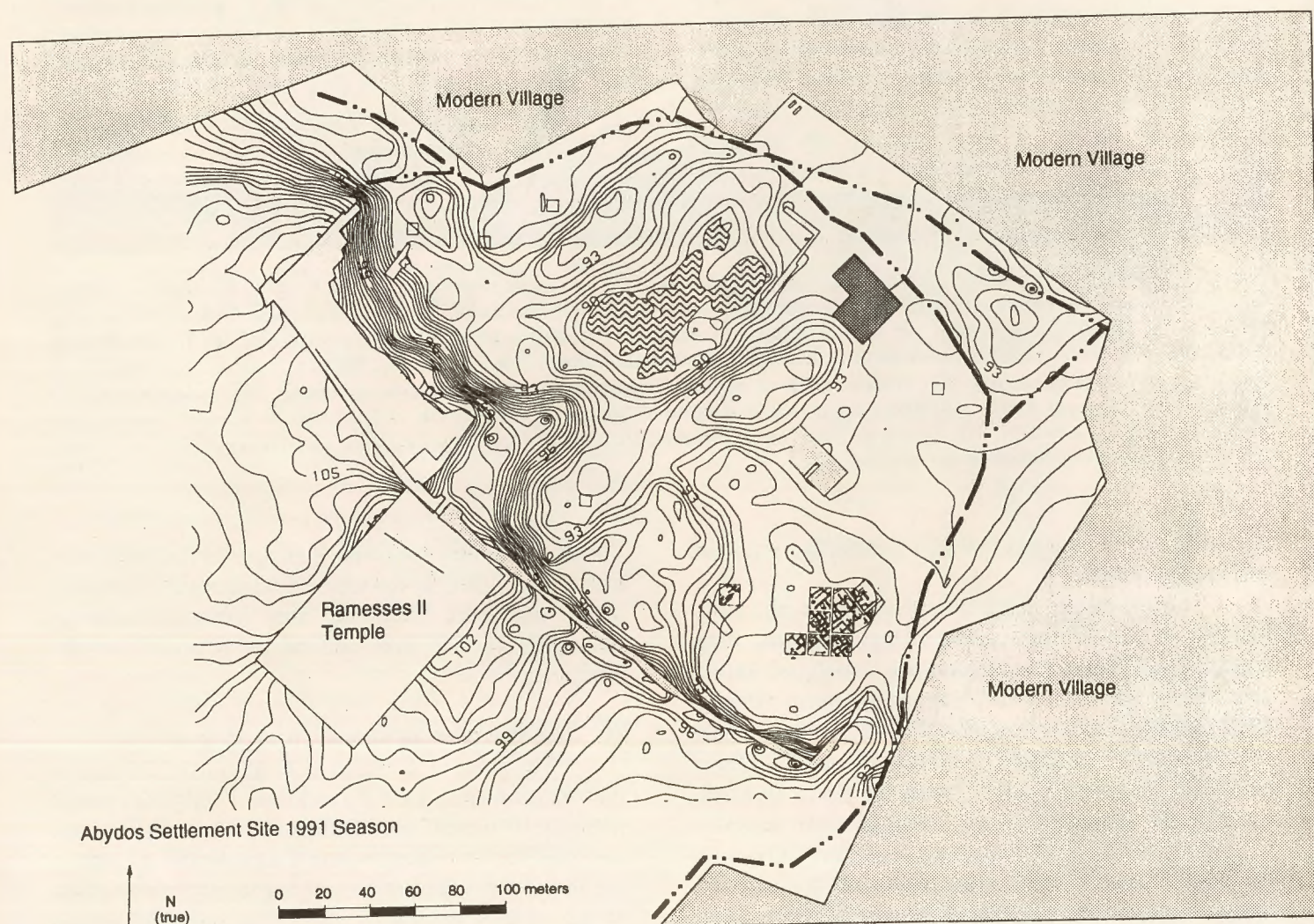


Figure 3—Abydos, topographic map of the area of the Old Kingdom - First Intermediate Period town site, showing existing surface features and the extent of modern occupation. The pond in the top center is the area of part of Petrie's 1902-3 excavations. The 1991 residential zone excavations are shown in the southeastern quadrant of the site.

Abydos Settlement Site 1991 Level Ib

Key

- Destroyed by pitting
- ▣ Brick threshold
- Wood threshold
- Reconstructed or inferred walls
- - - Edge of street
- Child burial

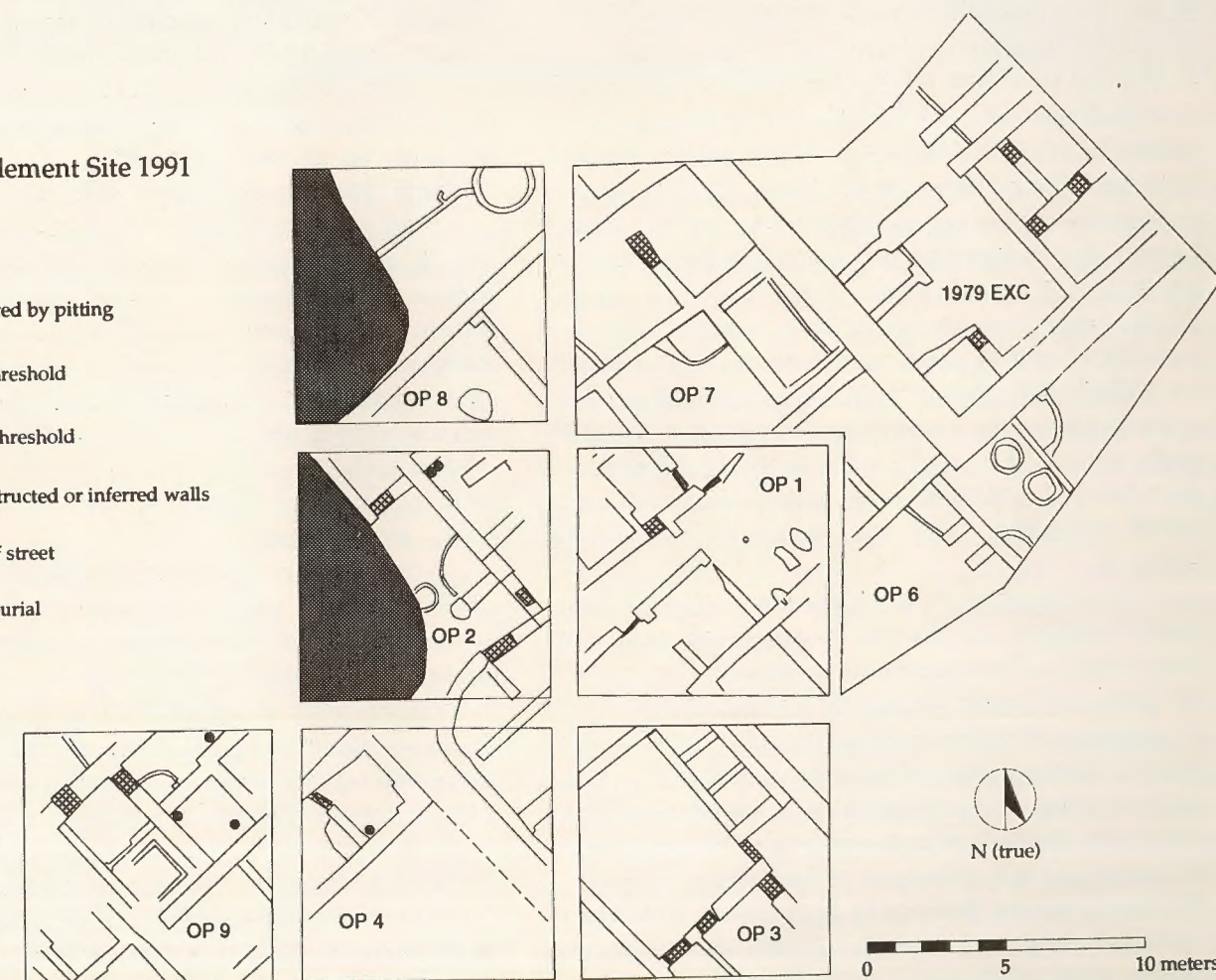


Figure 4—Schematic plan of the 1991 residential zone excavations of the Abydos Settlement Site Project, showing building level Ib structures adjacent to a large structure originally excavated in 1979.

patterns of activity. Significant modifications were made over time: interior walls and features went out of use and were overlain by later floor surfaces, while some spaces were divided by the addition of interior walls. Many rooms had hearths, for cooking and/or heat. Some such features were simple in-floor depressions, while others were more complex, with brick or pise enclosures, and one example had a flue built into an adjacent wall. Several rooms had floors with dense deposits of ceramic vessels, some whole but many broken in place, as well as grinding stones and other artifacts. A number of areas had storage facilities of various types and sizes, including pits, bins, jars set into the floor, and brick "silos." Several storage features were found to contain stacks of pottery vessels. There were three types of "silos," a smaller variety, round or oval in plan (Operations 2, 6), a larger version of the round form (Op. 8), and a large rectangular type (Operation 3 [Fig. 6], and possibly also SE corner of Op. 1). This rectangular type was complexly constructed, with outer and inner walls. The space between these was filled with very fine clean loose sand. This sand may have acted as both a desiccant and as a deterrent to rodents.

The southeastern half of the excavated area during one sub-phase of the First Intermediate Period level had been severely burned, with evidence of less intense burning in other areas. This burning resulted in remarkable preservation of in situ material as well as large deposits of burned organic remains. It was the burned areas which had the densest concentrations of ceramics and other artifacts intact on floors. In the small central room in Operation 1, a number of jars were found still in place on a floor, several of which were filled with charred grain. In a courtyard and one room in Operation 3 were likewise vessels filled with grain, as well as burned roofing beams and fragments of worked and drilled wood wound with reed cord which are most likely the remains of household furniture.

From the courtyard in Operation 3 (Fig. 6) came many fragments of clay jar stoppers and mud seal impressions. The sealings show the use of a number of stamp (and scarab?) seals, the designs of which are of definitely First Intermediate Period type. The fact that this concentration of sealings came from an area with very large rectangular "silos" is significant, since sealings in themselves represent part of the mechanics of controlling the movement of and access to goods. The large storage facilities in Operation 3 themselves represent another dimension of this social process (Kemp 1989, 1986).

Most common in all contexts were ceramics, and a variety of forms is represented. These include bowls, basins, vats, spheroid, bag, and "drop"-shaped jars of various sizes, cooking pots, platters, and a range of conical to cylindrical bread moulds. Definite change in ceramic forms could be observed over time. Ceramics from the Level II included bowls with a "recurved" rim (i.e. "Meydum bowls") of a distinctly later Old Kingdom type, as well as typical heavy Old Kingdom bread moulds. Level I ceramics were significantly different, and changed over time. The lower part of this level could be said to "look" toward the Old Kingdom in several forms, while the uppermost part was oriented more toward succeeding Middle Kingdom forms.

Lithics were also ubiquitous. The chipped stone recovered included a variety of finished tools. Sickle blades (some with silica sheen) and a variety of other blade tools were numerous. Notches were also quite common, as were side scrapers. There was a variety of other tool types and a substantial amount of the debitage from tool manufacture and use. The presence of a variety of core forms also suggests manufacture on-site. Ground stone included large grinding stones (querns) with rollers and hammerstones.

All contexts also produced a variety of faunal and botanical remains. To ensure control for small remains, all excavated contexts were 100% screened through 5mm mesh, and a systematic program of flotation was undertaken. Fauna recovered included bovid, pig, sheep/goat, equid, and fish. Botanical remains were recovered in substantial volumes both directly from burned deposits and through flotation. Species included barley, emmer wheat, pea, fig, flax, and a number of wild plants. During the 1991 field season, only a preliminary examination of the faunal and botanical remains was possible. A full and detailed statistical analysis is planned for a winter, 1993, study season.

Six human burials were found inside houses (Fig. 4). All individuals were infants or young juveniles. Several of the burials were in jars placed under floors, while others were simply in shallow pits. All burials were along walls or in a corner. These burials contained no grave goods, and there is evidence that some may have been secondary, i.e. re-interments after the bodies had partially decomposed elsewhere.

The earlier major architectural level, that dating to the Old Kingdom, has been revealed so far in only one area, in the northwest portion of Operation 8. The walls appear to be thinner than those of the later level and are built on a somewhat different and irregular



Figure 5—Photograph of the 1991 residential zone excavations of the Abydos Settlement Site Project, seen from the south.

orientation. They appear to be house walls, although not enough is revealed at present to discuss the nature of this level in any detail. Traces of walls belonging to this level were also found in 1979 in the test excavations.

Analysis of all recovered cultural material was begun during the 1991 season at Abydos, but unanticipated volume and richness of material from the site prevented its completion. Presently a study season is planned for winter, 1993, during which the processing and analysis will be completed. At that point, ceramics, lithics, plant and animal remains, and other cultural material can be correlated with architectural and stratigraphic data, and the full analysis of the excavations can be accomplished. The emphasis of this analysis will be, as necessitated by the theoretical orientation and research questions of the project, on the definition of the range of spatial-functional variability within and the patterns of socio-economic organization which characterized the residential "zone" of the site.

III. Preliminary Interpretations and Conclusions

The work done at the ancient town site of Abydos has produced a tremendous amount of data about the nature of a provincial Egyptian town of the

early historic period. Although a full analysis will be required before definite conclusions can be presented, a number of preliminary suggestions can be made about the site, at least for the First Intermediate Period. The amount of horizontal exposure in the main excavation area permits several discrete house complexes belonging to this period to be defined, each with a number of functionally differing areas. There seems to be some variability in access to material resources and the ability to store goods, which are probably indicators of status and wealth. This is supported by the presence in only one house complex of evidence of the sealing of containers, a direct indicator of control of access to goods. There is variability in the scale of food preparation, suggesting differences in household size. There was also variability in the distribution of food production technology, such as sickle blades, as well as animal and plant remains, which suggest that separate households may have been involved to differing degrees in the primary production of foodstuffs. The patterns of organization of subsistence and craft production, as well as the patterns of access to resources, i.e. material prosperity, during a period seen as lacking a centralized state administration has important implications for a better understanding of the

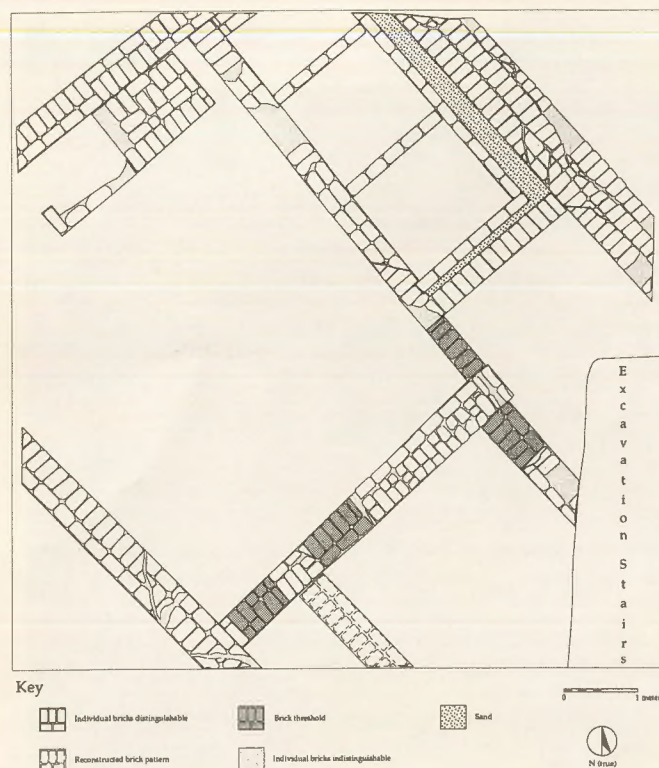


Figure 6—Detailed plan of Operation 3, 1991 residential zone excavations of the Abydos Settlement Site Project, building level Ib, showing the large silos in the upper center, the adjacent courtyard, remains of a staircase against the wall in the northwest corner of the unit, and parts of two rooms and a narrow corridor.

socio-economic and socio-political organization of Egyptian society during this period.

The relatively intact nature of the floor deposits of Level Ib and the buildup of fallen mudbrick over the floors of this phase suggest that after the episode of burning the site or this portion of it may have been abandoned for a time during the First Intermediate Period. It is interesting to note that there are textual references from the period to military conflict in the region of Abydos between the competing Herakleopolitan and Theban ruling houses (Schenkel 1965; Gomaà 1980). It must be noted, however, that there is *no* evidence of military conflict in the areas of the town as yet excavated, and without direct evidence suggesting otherwise the source of the fire at the site must remain unknown. Additionally, until there is a sequence of C14 dates and a tight control of the ceramic chronology from the site, any assignment to a dynastic date or correlation to possible historic events must remain speculation.

As detailed analysis proceeds, the spatial-functional variability within the ancient town will be more closely defined, and more definitive interpretive statements will be made. Abydos during the First

Intermediate Period was part of a larger social, economic, and political system, even if the Egyptian state as such did not exist. The patterns seen its internal organization should reflect the nature of the system of which it was a part.

The work in the Abydos town site adds significantly to the body of archaeological data from ancient Egyptian settlements. It provides a specific data set for the rigorous testing of various models of the organization of ancient Egyptian settlements and society in the early historic period which have been proposed by Egyptologists and likewise the applicability of models of early complex societies developed by anthropologists. In addition to providing a significant set of data for such model testing, the present research has provided a starting point for additional inquiry into the nature of early Egyptian settlement. Further analysis will answer many questions and raise others, which can be pursued in future field research, and which will continue the contribution of Abydos to the debate on and the understanding of ancient Egyptian society.

IV. Acknowledgments

This research was made possible by (1) generous fellowship support from the American Research Center in Egypt granted the writer for the term October, 1991, through January, 1992, (2) field funds provided by Robert H. Dyson, Director, and by the Egyptian Section of The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and (3) support from Yale University granted through the good offices of Professor William Kelly Simpson. Acknowledgment must be made of the advice and logistical support given by the directors and staff of the American Research Center in Egypt, in both New York and Cairo. Particular thanks must go to Dr. Terence Walz, Director-New York, Dr. Iliya Harik, Director-Cairo, Madame Amira Khattab and Mr. Ibrahim Sadek, Assistant Directors-Cairo. This project was designed and implemented with the advice and under the supervision of Professor David O'Connor of the University of Pennsylvania, to whom most sincere thanks are due. Thanks must also go to the representatives of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization who were most helpful in facilitating the work at Abydos, Dr. Mohammed Bakr, Chairman, Mr. Muttawa Balboush, Director General for Upper Egypt, Mr. Yayha el-Masri, Director of Antiquities, Sohag, Mr. Ahmet el-Khattib, Chief Inspector, Balliana, and Miss Aziza el-Sayed Hassan, inspector for the 1991-92 field season. Special mention must also be made of the generous assistance given the writer and the Abydos Project by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Director General of Antiquities for Giza and Saqqara. Without the

dedication of the Abydos research team this work would not have been possible: David Anderson, Stephen Harvey, Alan Olson, Stacie Olson, and Josef Wegner, excavation area supervisors; E. Christiana Köhler, ceramics; Shannon McPherron, lithics; Maria Litynska-Zajac, botanical analysis; Andrew Weiss and Glenn Carnagey, survey and computers; Richard Barnes, photography; Deborah Casselberry, registrar; and Paula Dardaris, drafting. Preparation of computer graphics was assisted by Jason Sanders.

Footnote and References

¹The University of Pennsylvania-Yale University Expedition to Abydos is co-directed by David O'Connor, University of Pennsylvania, and William Kelly Simpson, Yale University.

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SPOTLIGHT:

Matthew Douglas Adams



Matthew Adams, center in sunglasses and trowel in hand, is pictured with one of the Abydos Settlement Site Project's site supervisors and a number of the excavation team.

Spotlight: Matthew Adams

Matthew Adams is a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and a Research Associate in the Egyptian Section of the University Museum. He was Field Director of the 1991-92 season of the Abydos Settlement Site Project, when he also served as an A.R.C.E. fellow.

Originally from Vienna, West Virginia, Mr. Adams became interested in archaeology and the culture of ancient Egypt while in elementary school. In 1976 an exhibit of Egyptian material from the University Museum came to Charleston, West Virginia, and the University of Pennsylvania gained a future student. While visiting the "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibit was in Washington, D.C., he was graciously granted an interview of more than three hours with an official of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization accompanying the exhibit, of whom he tried to ask every troubling question in Egyptology.

Besides his work at Abydos, Mr. Adams has also participated in archaeological field projects in Syria, Turkey, and North America. His particular research interests are in understanding Egypt as a complex society, the archaeology of Egyptian settlements, integrating textual and archaeological data, and bridging anthropology and Egyptology.

EAO COMMITTEE CHANGES

In April 1992, there were several changes made in the composition of the Permanent Committee of the EAO, the body that approves all archaeological work. In addition, a new Board of Trustees was created.

The Permanent Committee is as follows:

Chairman: Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr

Members:

Gamal Mokhtar, Chairman Emeritus, EAO

Abdel Halim Nour el-Din, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University

Tohfa Hamdoussa, Chairman, Egyptian Archaeology Department, Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University

Zahi Hawass, Director General, Giza and Saqqara

Mohamed Saleh, Director General, Cairo Museum

Kamal Fahmy, Director General, Lower Egypt

Ahmed Newar, Head of Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture

Salah el-Naggar, Architect, Giza Plateau

Mohy el-Din Abdel Latif, Dean, Faculty of Tourism, Cairo University

A Representative from the Ministry of Wakf

The Board of Trustees: contains permanent representatives from the Ministries of Tourism, Finance, Housing, Education, Wakf, and from the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University.

The EAO is represented by four members: Zahi Hawass, Ali Siyaam (Head of the Pharaonic Section), and Fahmy Abdel-Alim (Head of the Islamic Section).

Other members are: Gamal Mokhtar, Fouad el-Orabi (Consultant, Ministry of Culture for Special Project), Abdel Rahman Abd el-Tawwab, Michel Fouad (Engineer and Consultant for the EAO), Moustafa Shawki (Engineer, worked in Nubia), and a Consultant from the Ministry of the Economy.

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

THE 1991 BOSTON UNIVERSITY EXCAVATIONS AT HALFIAH GIBLI AND SEMAINEH, UPPER EGYPT

Kathryn A. Bard

With contributions by Abdel-Moneim Mahmoud, Arlene M. Rosen, Sally Swain, Stephen Savage, Wilma Wetterstrom, and Eberhard Zangger

Editor's Note: Kathryn A. Bard is a professor of archaeology at Boston University.

In July-August, 1991, excavations were conducted at two sites (HG, SH) in the Hu-Semaneh region, near Nag Hammadi. Mr. Yaseen Mohamed Mahmoud was the field representative of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization (EAO) office in Qena, under the direction of Mr. Hussein el-Afiuni. The principal investigator wishes to thank Professor Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr, Chairman of the EAO, and Mr. Mitawi Balboush for their cordial cooperation on this project. Funding for the project was provided by the National Geographic Society.

Background

In 1898-1899 Sir Flinders Petrie excavated a number of cemeteries in the Hu-Semaneh region (Petrie 1901). These included five Predynastic cemeteries, nine pharaonic cemeteries, and two Roman-period cemeteries. Petrie also excavated a Roman fort, which had been converted from a Ptolemaic temple.

In 1989 Bard did a reconnaissance survey for Predynastic settlements in the vicinity of Petrie's excavated Predynastic cemeteries (Bard 1989). Two Predynastic settlements, HG at Halfiah Gibli, and SH at Semaneh were located. HG and SH are situated on spurs of the low desert above the floodplain, and to the south of the El Ranan canal. Surface surveys were conducted at these two sites, and artifacts (mainly potsherds and some lithics) were collected in a random sampling strategy.

Site SH

Site SH was thought to be a late Predynastic settlement because of the Nagada III grave goods excavated here by Petrie, and because of one calibrated radiocarbon date of ca. 3780-3530 B.C. (OxA-2184) obtained on a charcoal sample from a test pit (Bard 1991: 130). Ceramics collected on the surface at SH in 1989 were of Predynastic sherds with some Old Kingdom sherds. The test pit from which the sample

(OxA-2184) was obtained was near what is now thought to be an early (Nagada I-IIa?) cemetery area, excavated by Petrie to the southwest of the site. Indicative of an early Predynastic date for this cemetery area, a White Cross-lined class sherd was excavated in another test pit in this cemetery in 1989, and a fragment of a ceramic anthropomorphic figurine was found in a grave pit in 1991. Although he did not differentiate two cemeteries, Petrie excavated another cemetery area (H) on a small spur east of the village site, and this area is probably where the mainly Nagada III grave goods were found. In area H a square grave outlined on the surface in mud-brick was excavated in 1991 and fill from this was sieved, but it had been very thoroughly excavated by Petrie's workmen, and no artifacts were recovered.

In 1991 a topographic map was made at SH, and a 5 x 5 m unit was excavated. Excavations at SH, however, revealed a site with a great mixture of ceramics, predominantly dating to the Old Kingdom, but mixed with a few Predynastic and New Kingdom sherds.

No evidence of domestic structures was found at SH, and the site is deflated, without stratified deposits above the paleosol. What was thought to be an industrial area was excavated in Unit 1 at SH, but part of the site had been disturbed by recent activities of a farmer, who had piled fodder there. A hard, compacted surface 2-7 cm below the desert surface was excavated, and consisted of mud mixed with calcium carbonate clasts, and burned soil with concentrations of ash and charcoal.

Large chunks of vitrified clay were found on the surface of SH around Unit 1, and were thought to be the remains of a pottery kiln(s), but no kiln structures were found in the excavations. The ceramics from Unit 1 consisted mostly of sherds of very gritty-tempered Old Kingdom bread molds, and SH may have been a kiln site for the production of Old Kingdom bread molds. No other domestic pottery was found, and the few Meydum bowl sherds (Old Kingdom) that were excavated there probably came from an Old Kingdom mastaba at the north end of the site where fragments of mud-brick are still visible. A calibrated

radiocarbon date of ca. 2860-2460 B.C. (OxA-2185) obtained from a charcoal sample from this feature would place it firmly in the Old Kingdom (Bard 1991: 130).

As SH seemed to be predominantly an Old Kingdom site, excavations were discontinued there.

Site HG

The main focus of excavations during the 1991 fieldwork was at Site HG. A topographic map of the site was made, and nine units were excavated, mainly in areas not previously cultivated. No evidence of houses or any other structures was found, and it is presumed that cultivation in the 1950s and 1960s on the main spur destroyed any such features. A 2 x 2 m test unit (6) was excavated in the previously cultivated area and very few sherds and lithics (but some charcoal) were found above the paleosol, indicating much disturbance. When Petrie visited this site in 1898 he stated that it was "entirely plundered" (Petrie 1901: 32). If there had been any remains of mud-brick walls Petrie would probably have noted them. It is assumed that this settlement was constructed of more ephemeral (organic) materials, which could only be recognized by more recent archaeological methods of

recovery, but such features were probably destroyed by the recent cultivation.

HG, Unit 1

Excavations at HG were undertaken in areas that had not been previously cultivated, i.e., to the north and east margins of the main spur, and on a small spur to the east of the main village site. Unit 1 was excavated in a low-lying depression to the southeast of the main spur, in the area of the four limestone blocks noted in the 1989 survey. In this area cultural material, consisting of sherds, lithics, and much charcoal, had washed down from the main settlement. Therefore, the Predynastic strata in this unit do not represent primary deposition of artifacts on any kind of living surfaces.

Ceramics consisted of an assemblage expected of a Predynastic settlement: large quantities of chaff-tempered ware (Rough-class) intermixed with smaller quantities of polished red, black, and Black-topped red class. The Rough-class represents large and smaller storage jars, and cooking vessels and bowls, while the fine polished classes represent a better quality material, possibly for serving food. Sherds of Predynastic bread molds were also identified. These ceramics probably date to late Nagada I and early Nagada II, but with the possibility that there may be a small later (mid-Nagada II) component.

Three unusual ceramic items were found in Unit

1:

1) A pot-stand, consisting of a pinched ring of clay, tapered at the top

2) A loop handle of Nile mud-clay, imitating imported (Palestinian) wares

3) A large, globular ceramic bead, unpolished, 3.2 cm long and 3.2 cm in diameter.

Lithic tools from Unit 1 consisted of sickle blades (some with polish), some bifacial tools, flakes, and grinding stone fragments. No projectile points or other hunting/fishing tools were found, and there were relatively few scrapers. Numerous grinders and grinding stone fragments were also found on the surface of HG—the stone tools were those of an agricultural village.

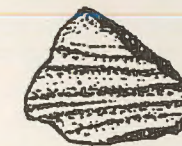
Paleobotanical evidence from Unit 1 also confirmed the agricultural subsistence base. Evidence was found for the major Predynastic (and Dynastic) cereal crops, emmer wheat and barley, in the form of carbonized grains and segments of cereal heads.

Beneath the levels with Predynastic artifacts in Unit 1, in level 7, an in situ semi-circular hearth was excavated with no associated sherds or lithics. A fragment of a mandible (tentatively identified as a small herbivore, such as a gazelle) was found between two hearth stones. This hearth is thus earlier than the levels with Nagadan sherds, and may be Epipaleolithic.

HG, Unit 3

On the northeast of the main spur at HG, two 2 x 2 m test units (2 and 3) were excavated, both with few cultural remains. Excavations continued in Unit 3 when the remains of durum wheat (*Triticum durum*) were recovered there through flotation, along with the remains of emmer wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and cf. 6-row barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Further evidence of durum wheat, consisting of fragments of the stem and the cereal head, was subsequently recovered from this unit. The deposits of Unit 3 contained charred plant remains and very few artifacts, suggesting that ash deposits had been swept out of hearths in houses and dumped on the edge of the village.

The durum wheat was an unusual discovery because this species of wheat has not been reported from Upper Egyptian Predynastic sites before, and it is only questionably known for this period from the site of Merimda in Lower Egypt (Zohary & Hopf 1988: 189). Although emmer wheat and barley have been found in Dynastic contexts, such as in baskets in



2. A fragment of a mud-sealing impressed on string that had been tied around a jar (or other container), from HG

Tutankh-amen's tomb (Germer 1985: 212), no durum wheat is known from a Dynastic context. Subsequent to the Predynastic, the cultivation of durum wheat is not known in Egypt until Graeco-Roman times.

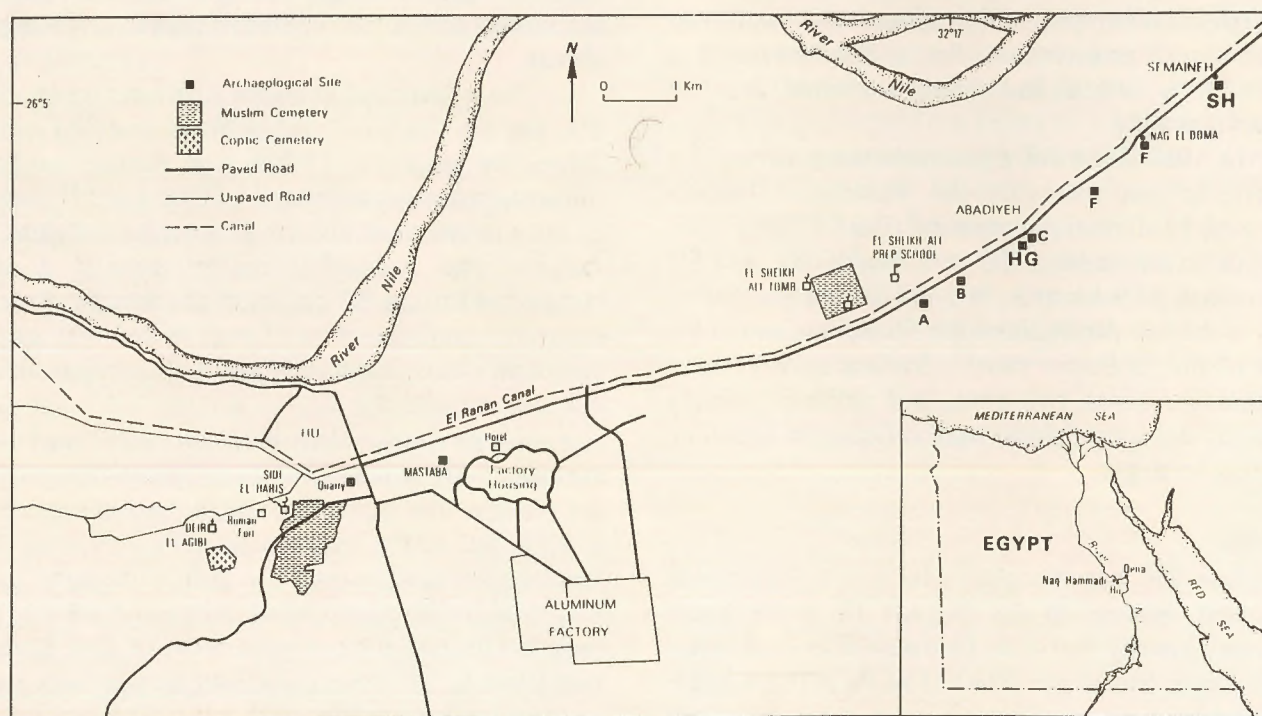
Although the samples of durum wheat were collected in a stratum in which Predynastic sherds were found, the remote possibility that the durum wheat remains may have been intrusive nonetheless needs to be addressed. The samples, though very small, are being sent to the Oxford radiocarbon laboratory, where they can hopefully be dated by accelerator dating.

Also excavated in Unit 3 were several sherds of marl clay not found in other excavated units at the site. It is of interest that marl clays were used in this region, and not a false 'hard orange' ware, as found at the Predynastic site of Hierakonpolis farther south. HG is within the limestone geology where marl clays were available, but no such formations exist in the Hierakonpolis region, where the more desirable marl wares may have been imitated by the 'hard orange' ware.

HG, Units 5 and 7

To the east of the spur on which the main Predynastic settlement at HG is located is a smaller spur separated by a small wadi in which the washed material of Unit 1 was excavated. Several *sebakhs* had already been excavated there, probably because of the abundant amount of charcoal in the soil. To the north of the *sebakhs* pits, however, was an undisturbed area with Predynastic artifacts on the surface. Excavations were conducted in this area in two units (5 and 7).

Soft friable calcium carbonate clasts 1-2+ cm thick appeared in the excavations squares of Unit 5,



1. Location map of Pre-dynastic sites in the Nu-Semaineh region

and at first it was thought that these were living floors. The calcium carbonate clasts, however, were not contained in any discrete areas that could be considered house floors, and the surface was very uneven and pitted (from rodent activity). Predynastic sherds were found above, embedded in, and beneath the calcium carbonate surface. Mixed with the calcium carbonate clasts was a hardened ash-rich silt that had been cemented by water, probably natural rainfall during the period of site occupation. Further investigation of the composition of these deposits is pending.

Throughout Units 5 and 7 were numerous pits with much wood charcoal and ash. Burned and fire-cracked rocks and cobbles were also found, as well as a number of heat-treated flakes and tools of chert. Abundant lithic debris from all stages of manufacture was also excavated, and it is thought that Units 5 and 7 represent an industrial area for chert working (by heat treating).

As the small spur where Units 5 and 7 are located is downwind from the main settlement area, with prevailing winds from the northwest, this would have been a good location for an industrial area. Considerably fewer sherds were excavated in these units than in Unit 1, although one unusual rim sherd of a White cross-lined class bowl (Nagada Ic) was found in Unit 5.

Paleobotanical evidence from Units 5 and 7 also suggests an industrial area. Unit 7 contained abundant remains of wood charcoal but very few other botanical remains. Unit 5 contained some desiccated emmer rachis segments, possibly from dumps of straw, but no carbonized remains, as found in food processing areas. If this area was an industrial area, the presence of large mammal bones in Units 5 and 7, which have yet to be analyzed, remains unexplained.

Other evidence from Units 5 and 7 also suggests stone working. A carnelian bead was recovered through flotation from Unit 5, and an unfinished agate bead was recovered from Unit 7. An unworked green stone, identified as green felspar, was found in Unit 5. Green felspar was used for beads beginning in Predynastic times, as were agate and carnelian (Lucas & Harris 1989: 387, 391, 394). Also in Unit 7 was a small ground stone palette of hard sandstone, slightly trapezoidal in shape with rounded corners. Its size (6.0 x 4.1 cm) suggests domestic use, as it is not of the larger, more elaborate types found in elite Predynastic burials. An end fragment of a large rhomboid slate palette (late Nagada I, early Nagada II) was also excavated in Unit 7, as was a polishing stone. No ground stone maceheads or chipped chert "lances," such as Petrie found in the nearby Cemetery B (Petrie 1901: 33-34), were excavated in Unit 5 or 7.

Evidence for Trade and Exchange

A preliminary analysis of the materials found at HG suggests a widespread exchange network in which even a relatively small farming village was engaged. Agate is found locally in wadi deposits, but the green felspar and carnelian come from the Eastern Desert (Lucas & Harris 1989: 387, 391, 394). Two small lumps of copper were recovered from Units 1 and 3, and the nearest copper mines are also in the Eastern Desert (Lucas & Harris 1989: 210). A (pierced?) cowrie shell from the Red Sea was also found in Unit 7.

Grinding stones collected on the surface of HG consisted of igneous rocks (rhyolite porphyry, basalt, granite) and metamorphic rocks (marble, quartzite). Marble is found in the Eastern Desert, and the red and grey granites come from Aswan (Lucas & Harris 1989: 58, 414). The other igneous and metamorphic rocks are found near Aswan, as well as in the Eastern Desert (Lucas & Harris 1989: 61, 63, 416).

Complex economic interaction is also suggested by another artifact excavated in Unit 1 at HG: a fragment of a mud-sealing. The sealing was created when a mud lump was impressed over three loops of string tied around a jar (or some kind of container). The existence of such a sealing suggests the exchange of valued goods in a regional or long-distance, and not local, exchange network. Such economic evidence from the settlement at HG would also correlate with grave goods excavated by Petrie in sometimes exotic materials, such as lapis lazuli and gold, from the nearby Cemetery B (Petrie 1901: 34).

Conclusions

Although the 1991 excavations at HG and SH did not uncover the remains of any domestic structures, a corpus of pottery from a Predynastic settlement, quite unlike that from Predynastic burials, is being prepared by Dr. Swain, and will be very useful for Predynastic settlement studies. Analysis of the lithics from the lithics workshop at HG is planned for later in 1993. The lithics study will also be useful, as only the unusual or elaborate lithic tools were kept by earlier archaeologists working at both Predynastic and Dynastic sites.

Nine charcoal samples from Sites HG and SH were sent for dating to the radiocarbon laboratory at Southern Methodist University, and these dates will be available in 1993.

Dr. Eberhard Zangger directed auguring taken from the floodplain near the desert edge at SH and HG (to 3-4 m depths), but this revealed a sequence of intercalated river sand and floodplain alluvium with a total lack of sherds or other indications of anthro-

pogenic impact. Excavations trenches by the EAO near SH produced intercalated wadi/desert/floodplain/river deposits with no occupational horizons in between and containing only a few sherds.

Although much cultural material at the settlements of HG and SH had been disturbed, it was important to conduct these excavations because such settlements have been ignored by earlier archaeologists working in Egypt. As industrial and agricultural development increases in Egypt, such settlements are being destroyed, including evidence for the economic base which supported the rise of complex society and the early state in Egypt.

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UMM SETI AND A VISIT TO ABYDOS TWENTY YEARS AGO

Terry Walz

Note: Terry Walz is the Executive Director of ARCE. In this piece he reminisces about a trip to Upper Egypt on the old paddlewheeler, the S.S. Sudan in 1970.

The three years following the 1967 War between Israel and Egypt were an unusually difficult time for Egyptians and for foreigners living in the country. The "War of Attrition" during which Israelis and Egyptians lobbed bombs across the Suez Canal at each other, continued from sometime after the war until the fall of 1970, produced a daily tension in Cairo, some seventy miles away from the Canal Zone. Those visiting Cairo at the time will never forget the cement walls and sandbags that blocked most public doorways and a good view of many of the exhibits in the Cairo Museum. For American visitors, moreover, there was an uncomfortable irony in finding those bags imprinted "Gift of the American People." Tourism during 1970, when I arrived, was negligible, especially after the death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser on September 30. It didn't seem the right time for non-Egyptians to venture into the country, but I was there at the beginning of my doctoral research on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Egyptian history and so were a number of American Fellow at the American Research Center in Egypt—which, alone among the American institutions in the country, was not nationalized nor obliged to close shop.

However, there is no quelching of the Egyptian spirit nor the all-pervasive optimism that even in the dimmest of times seems to spring eternal. Therefore it was not altogether surprising, though in hindsight completely unexpected, to hear that the Government had decided to allow two boatloads of tourists to travel from Cairo to Luxor for the first time since the heightening of the "War of Attrition" in 1969. The two cruises were advertised as an effort to encourage tourism. Its organization was spearheaded by Serge Sauneron, director of the Institut Français d'Archeologie Orientale du Caire, his wife, and a group of their colleagues from the institute and the French embassy. Leaving from Old Cairo in November, 1970, the trip was to include stops at Amarna, Ashmunein and Minya, Abydos, Dendera, and Luxor. It was an unusual opportunity to see Egypt in the company of an eminent Egyptologist from the French Institute.

The selected cruise vessel for this group was the old S.S. Sudan, formerly in the service of Cook's Nile fleet during the heyday of Nile cruises in the twenties and thirties and a delightful relic of colonial tourism. (It was later used in the film "Death on the Nile.") Our guide was the learned and charming Dr. Gita Doss, a daughter of one of the great families of Egypt who had trained in Egyptology in Belgium. The voyage was to take seven days, and the cost was only £E40 (in those days, about \$90). Also to go upriver at the same time was the S.S. Osiris—both boats were making the run to Luxor where they would service the tourist trade during the winter season. But the "Osiris" was carrying a very different crowd. Former Queen Dina of Jordan headed that group.

In addition to Serge and Nadine Sauneron, the cruise participants included Mrs. Atiya Habachy (secretary of the American Research Center in Egypt and wife of Dr. Labib Habachy, one of Egypt's best-known Egyptologists); Jean-Pierre Conteggiani (Librarian at the French Institute and later author of a well-known book on the Cairo Museum); Carl Petry, the medieval Islamic historian now teaching at Northwestern University and then an ARCE Fellow; Ralph Coury, a historian now teaching at Fairfield University and then an ARCE Fellow, and his wife Melissa; Susan Staffa, an ARCE member and then professor of cultural anthropology at the Smithsonian. The Egyptian members numbered Hassan Fathy, the famous architect; Ibrahim al Shayib, the architectural engineer; prof. Ibrahim Shakir, head of the department of international law at Cairo University and an amateur violinist; Mrs. Qadriyya Abbas, wife of a textile engineer who was a relation of the deposed monarch; Ms. Akida Akeeb, the physio-kinesio-electro-therapist; Mrs. Farida Gabbour, wife of the furniture storeowner; the lawyer Maurice Assaad and his wife. In addition, the shipmates included a group of seven Swiss tourists: altogether about 35 passengers.

Thanks to the chemistry of the group and the intellectual and social talents of its various members, the cruise proved so remarkable that its alumni continued to meet at dinner gatherings in Cairo upon its return from Upper Egypt. It was also remarkable because of the privilege of being able to sail up the Nile after such a long period of not being able to, and because of the superb beauty of the countryside we passed. The visual "highs" sustained us each day, from breakfast until the fading hours of the afternoon.

However, the purpose of this retelling is the encounter we had with Umm Seti, the lady of Abydos, whose eccentricity had led her to take up an abode in the village next to the temple and reside there as an unorthodox guide to the complex. (Little did we know

the interpretations of life that paraded through her mind until we read Jonathan Cott's book *The Search for Omm Sety* that was published in 1987). The possibility of meeting her sparked conversations as we proceeded upriver into Upper Egypt.

We approached the river landing dock used to reach Abydos on the sixth day of the voyage. As we pulled near the shore and readied ourselves to disembark, a lively baladi band appeared on the dock and began to serenade us with flutes and drums. To their lively accompaniment, we marked jauntily down the gangplank and ashore to waiting buses, therein to proceed inland four miles or so to the edge of the desert where the temple of Seti is located. We passed through lush countryside, deeply green with a fresh crop of berseem, the Egyptian alfalfa. Entering the village lying at the foot of the temple of Seti, we pulled up in front of a coffee shop, there to wait from Umm Seti, who would service as our guide.

She soon appeared, a woman then 68 years of age, wearing a tweed suit, her face pink but heavily lined; on her feet, only thonged sandals. Her unattended hair was held down by a pink gauze scarf. Although she spoke with a lively voice and had a twinkly eye, she looked older than her years. She had directly come, she told us, from her living quarters, adding that she had vacated here apartment to avoid nosy neighbors and was temporarily residing in a zariba, an animal enclosure.

Mrs. Habachy greeted her effusely and warmly and promptly produced a hamper of provisions brought from Cairo. She then dug into her handbag and brought out a thick, handwoven, multi-colored pancho that had been made expressly for her by Nini Dorman, wife of John Dorman, the Cairo director of ARCE (later she agreed to pose for us wearing the pancho). At that time, Umm Seti was receiving a stipend from the American Research Center in Egypt as a consultant to the Hierakonpolis expedition. She was an authority on ancient Egyptian temple practice and culture and its modern occurrence.

While we had tea, Umm Seti talked about herself to the group. The Egyptians in particular peppered her with questions about her beliefs and way of life. She disclosed to those who did not know her story that she was a servant in the cult of Osiris, having been reincarnated from an earlier age when she had been a priestess in the Abydos temple. She was in communication with the pharaohs Seti I and Ramesses II who had restored the old religious order and had restored the temple. Seti in particular had shown a special regard for her, and she would name her son in his honor. Umm Seti, incidentally, had no kind words of

Akhenaten, who as she saw it besmerched the true religion.

She had married an Egyptian and come to Egypt in 1932, and after her divorce from him (they separated after her husband realized she followed a pre-Christian religion), she moved to Abydos in 1952. She loved the village and rarely left it, she said; after her visits to Cairo—only twice in those eighteen years—she would flee back to the village, finding a peace of mind only when she entered the temple.

Umm Seti then beckoned us to a guided tour through the famous temple. As she entered the religious edifice, she doffed her thonged slippers as Egyptians do when they enter a mosque. With great animation she described the various rituals of the temple, imbuing the gods with life. Knowing the relationships between them all and the rituals attached to their worship, they seemed to be old friends and acquaintances. Umm Seti herself observed the feast days of Osiris, and on those days brought to the temple beer, wine, and bread as prescribed by ritual practice.

As we departed and headed back to the buses, Umm Seti also told us of the terrible days following the death of Gamal Abdel Nasser, who dies two months earlier. "Such dreadful news," she related, "we paraded about the village tearing our hair and waiting." Upon hearing this, I couldn't help but recall the ancient temple representations of women mourning, and at that moment time seemed to have stood still.

She registered a decided impact on the group, but in very different ways. The Egyptians thought her more peculiar than remarkable, but understanding the motives that led her to take up such a bizarre life. The French found her eccentricity "typically English" but no more than that. The Americans admired her for "doing her own thing." This was, after all, the dawn of the seventies.



Umm Seti in 1970



A UNIQUE SOUVENIR FROM EGYPT

Monique E. Bell

Editor's Note: Monique Bell, Editorial Assistant of NARCE, has sponsored a young Egyptian girl and her family for the past three years through Childreach. This is the story of her visit with the Shaker family this past winter.

Childreach, founded in 1937 as Foster Parents Plan, is an organization that has pioneered international sponsorship of children in more than 46 countries around the world. Through the Childreach program, a sponsor is linked with an individual child and family in a developing country of one's choice. The sponsor's obligation is regular payments of a reasonable amount earmarked for an individual child paid directly to Childreach and channeled to the child's family and community.

With this financial support, the child and family as well as the community receive improved health care, better living conditions and access to an education through development programs administered by Childreach's global affiliate, PLAN International (PLAN).

Through this program of assistance, I became the "partner" of Rasha Mohamed Shaker, a 7 year-old-girl from Cairo. When I first gazed at her picture I knew immediately that I would be happy to make a commitment.

From the family profile provided, I learned that Rasha is the eldest of three daughters of mother Iman Faty Ahmed and father Mohamed Shaker who live in Zeinoh, a suburb of Cairo. The father is a butcher.

When I became a Childreach sponsor, I received the child's progress reports, translated letters, photos, up-dates on the field office projects, cross culture communications and newsletters which share traditions and customs from my sponsored child's country.

What a thrill it was to receive Rasha's first letter in the beautiful Arabic script attached to the translation. I had sent them my picture and our link was established.

Through numerous contacts with her mother and father, whose words were translated from Arabic into English for my benefit, I learned of Rasha's progress in school and the importance of the sponsorship program in their lives. I was also told that a new baby was expected and eagerly awaited the news of the birth of the fourth child who turned out to be another healthy daughter, named Dahab.

Having established a tie with the Shaker family I was no longer a stranger to them. In planning my third trip to Egypt last winter, through Childreach's auspices I arranged to meet them. It turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

On the designated day, I was picked up at my hotel in Garden City by PLAN's Magdy Rashad. He briefed me on operations in Egypt as we drove to Zeinoh and also volunteered to translate for me. The organization works in particular with low income families in three districts of Cairo: Old Cairo, Ain El Sirah and Zeinoh. He pointed out that the organization's programs are specifically designed to help families help themselves to improve their health, education, livelihood as well as improve the communities in which they live.

After a short drive, we picked up the Shaker family case worker. He joined us as we continued on until we stopped in front of a row of rundown apartment buildings. I followed Mr. Rashad and the case worker through an open courtyard and up a flight of narrow winding stairs to the very top. A clothesline hung in front of the doorway through which I could hear children's voices. Mr. Rashad spoke in Arabic and the door opened. I bent down under the clothes and entered the Shaker home.

After so much time and so many letters, I could not believe I was really there. I noticed three children looking at me and moving about. I scanned their faces quickly trying to identify Rasha from the pictures I had been sent. I recognized her mother, Iman, immediately because she was wearing the same dress as in the pictures sent with the family profile. I called her by name and a big smile came across her face. We hugged, kissed and laughed. She was holding the new baby daughter and I asked if it was Dahab. I could see she was pleased I knew the child's name.

I was introduced to Mr. Shaker, who was dressed in a galabeya and who greeted me courteously. I noticed the family resemblance with the children in the room. They were Rasha's two younger sisters; Awatef and Hind and a little cousin, Reem. They were all very excited and kissed me hello.

I asked for Rasha and was told someone had gone to get her. When she arrived, she was out of breath from running. I recognized her at once and became very emotional. I could not believe I was really standing in front of her. I took her hand, kissed her hello and tried to exchange greetings in my best Berlitz Arabic. Now 10, I found her beautiful and smaller in height than I imagined she would be. As I was standing with her, I was afraid that the dress I had brought as a gift was going to be too big.

I could not stop staring at Rasha. She was

nervous and a little shy at first. We all relaxed and got comfortable as we sat around the table enjoying traditional mint tea. I then began to notice my surroundings.

The Shakers live in one small room (12 meters square or so) with an alcove that contains a bed in which the parents and infant Dahab slept. I later found out that the three girls slept on bedding placed on the living room floor at night. The home was much nicer inside than I expected. Several overstuffed chairs were grouped around a table. A large wardrobe seemed to contain all the family's belongings. They showed me the many stickers I had sent which were now decorating the walls and some of my cards were hanging up too. Tucked in the border of a framed picture of Iman was my picture and another one was displayed on the other side of the room. I was touched to see the things I had sent among their few possessions. I told them through the interpreter that I have Rasha's picture in a frame on my desk at home.

All the cooking was done on a little kerosene burner on the floor in a corner of the room. The flat had no running water—it had to be fetched from a public tap 50 meters away. There was a single toilet for the entire building, located in a common area shared with the rest of the tenants. But there was electricity and, much to my surprise, a small television set. With PLAN's assistance and mine, they told me that the home had been repainted and a small window installed.

From a drawer Iman took out my letters and cards attached to the Arabic translations. I then took out my documents and showed them their photos and letters which I had received. Rasha seemed very pleased when she saw that I had the colored drawing of a Ramadan lantern she had set me at the beginning of our correspondence.

Then came the gifts which I was permitted to bring with me. I felt like Mrs. Santa Claus as I pulled out of my bag the little things I had been accumulating for weeks before the trip ... candies, school supplies, Mickey Mouse dolls (they were a big hit), crayons, coloring books and, of course, the dress for Rasha. She loved it. It was too big but they said she would grow into it.

Among the school supplies I brought was a little globe of the world pencil sharpener. She knew what it was and smiled and understood when I pointed out "Misr/Rasha-New York/Monique."

In the course of our conversation, Rasha told me she would like to be a doctor. I was so touched when this was translated for me. When I asked why, she explained that she wanted to help people and as a doctor she could. I had Mr. Rashad translate what a



Monique Bell surrounded by the Shaker family in their home, December, 1991.

struggle school was for me at her age. I told her not to give up and to seek help when she did not understand.

I knew from the letters that Rasha had been struggling in school and I learned from her mother that her father made her stop attending because he thought it was not proper for a girl to go to school. This was distressing news to hear but fortunately, she was attending literacy classes conducted in the community center sponsored by PLAN. She is the only one in the family who can now read and write. I asked her to write her name which she did proudly in a beautifully measured Arabic script.

Mr. Rashad took pictures of all of us with my Polaroid instant camera. The children really enjoyed seeing the pictures develop before their eyes. It had been my intention to leave the photographs with them as a souvenir of our visit.

After about two hours of our visit in the home, a tour of the Zeinoh district community center had been arranged for me. I said goodbye to the parents and the little sisters Awatef and Hind who found it quite amusing when I mixed up their names. Upon leaving, I told Mr. and Mrs. Shaker what a beautiful family they had.

Rasha took me by the hand and together with Mr. Rashad and the case worker we walked the short distance to the community center which had been constructed on a site that had once been a trash dump.

The ranch style building consisted of four rooms and had a little garden at the front entrance. In one of the rooms, literacy classes are conducted for adults and children. I met Rasha's teacher who told me that she was a good student and doing well in class. A second room contained a small lending library; it doubled as a lecture room in which family planning talks were

BOOK REVIEWS

given. I was shown equipment such as a scale used to monitor the growth of newborns. On the walls were posters explaining the importance of nutrition for infants and the need for family planning. Another room contained a large loom and here weaving classes are given. Rasha joined her friends and demonstrated what she had been taught. Mr. Rashad explained that by learning how to weave, children were taught a useful craft. The rugs produced are sold locally and the proceeds benefit the center. The last room, the sewing room, contained several antiquated but functioning sewing machines. On them were made school uniforms for the local children.

At the end of my tour, I signed the guest register as all sponsors who visit do. It was getting late and Rasha had to return home. We embraced and said goodbye. I was saddened to see her go and our visit come to an end, but I was pleased knowing I had helped make her world a better place.

As I was driven back to my hotel, the images of the day flashed through my mind. I had a feeling of tremendous satisfaction that my sponsorship was really enhancing the lives of one family in the country I love so much. My visit with the Shaker family turned out to be a souvenir I will cherish for a lifetime.

IDEA INTO IMAGE:

Essays on Ancient Egyptian Thought.

By Erik Hornung; translated by Elizabeth Bredeck. New York: Timken Publishers, 1992.

210 pp., 36 black and white illustrations with numerous line drawings, \$25.00

Nine essays offer a wide-ranging introduction to the mind of ancient Egypt: the invention of writings and the relationship between word and image; the Egyptians' beliefs about the origins of the universe; their notions of time and eternity; life after death; and the human soul. "While many introductions to Egypt focus on the impressive ruins and works of art, this volume is devoted to the Egyptian Imagination"—from the blurb. Dr. Hornung is professor of Egyptology at the University of Basel.

ALEXANDRIA CITIZENSHIP DURING THE ROMAN PRINCIPATE.

By Diana Delia.

American Classical Studies, vol 23. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1991. 210 pp.

"This monograph is the first in a series of social profiles that I intend to write about the inhabitants of Roman Alexandria. I decided to begin with the citizen class of Alexandrians, who enjoyed the greatest social status, numerous privileges, and were responsible for the flourishing of Hellenism in an alien environment during the period of Roman domination, because they are the best documented of all social groups. Yet that, too, is only relative. No narrative descriptions of the Alexandria constitution and its development akin to Aristotle's *Constitution of the Athenians* have survived nor are there any histories of the city. The historian is likewise handicapped by the absence of a corpus of speeches analogous to the fourth-century Attic orations which reveals so many details about public and private rights. In sum, we are also most entirely dependent on documentary evidence"—from the Introduction.

Contents: Alexandrian Citizenship; Tribes and Demes; The Ephebela; Civil Magistrates; The Problem of the Alexandrian Council; Appendices; Bibliography; Indices.

Dr. Delia, who teaches history at Texas A&M University, was an ARCE Fellow during 1991-92. She is completing a book on the history of Alexandria, to be published by Oxford University Press.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

(November 1992)

In 1992, ARCE embarked upon an aggressive campaign of networking and development that will be beneficial to ARCE in its next half decade. With Terry Walz in New York, Mark Easton, Ellen Granger and Ibrahim Sadek in Cairo, and myself in Washington, DC, ARCE is working to raise a substantial sum of money that will permit the organization to maintain its present programs and build for the future.

The term development encompasses three distinct but interdependent activities: planning, community relations/contact development and fundraising. The plan is deliberate and people-oriented. Through everyone's efforts, we are developing contacts on behalf of ARCE and are undertaking site visits when appropriate. This is an ongoing and crucial aspect of a development campaign.

This development drive was inaugurated to raise \$2.5 million in general, endowment and building funds. Contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals will help us create the ARCE Fellowship Program Endowment, the ARCE Public Programs Endowment, the Cairo Building Fund, the ARCE Publications Endowment and the ARCE Operation Endowment.

Proposals are pending with several corporations, foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant office.

In December 1992, ARCE was honored in Washington, DC at a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Wisner, former ambassador to Egypt, and His Excellency Ahmed Maher El Sayed and his wife, the new Egyptian ambassador to the United States. The reception provided an opportunity to highlight ARCE activities in general and to the Washington area in particular.

Marjorie Adams
Development Officer

During the recent Annual Appeal, solicitations were asked for the general endowment, the Library, and the new Building Fund. Below are special contributions that have been received from members:

BUILDING FUND

\$100 - \$250

Monique Bell

\$250 - \$500

Jane Ferson

\$1000 and above

Norma Kershaw

PUBLIC PROGRAMS FUND

\$100 - \$250

Norma Kershaw

GENERAL FUND

\$100 - \$250

Victoria La Sala

Robert Lowdermilk

\$250 - \$500

Betsy & Charles Bryan

David A. Goodman

Nimet Habachy

Martha Kellner

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Peterson

Miriam Reitz Baer

Miss Alice Tully

\$1000 and above

Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid Marsot

LIFE

A. Bruce Mainwaring



1993 Annual Meeting

The 43rd Annual Meeting will take place in Baltimore, April 23-25, 1993, our host being the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Betsy Bryan is the local organizing chairperson.

Highlights of the meeting will be: Thursday evening, April 22nd, a pre-meeting welcome reception which will be held at the home of Dr. Betsy Bryan. Friday evening, April 23rd, the Walters Art Gallery (co-host), will host a reception. Saturday, April 24th, the annual banquet will be a "Crab Feast" which will be given on the University Lawn. Sunday, April 25th, our Special Annual Speaker, Dr. Gunter Dreyer, German archaeological Institute, Cairo, will speak on: "Recent Excavations at the Royal Cemetery at Abydos."

Conference hotel accommodations will be at The Inn at the Colonnade, 4 West University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218. For reservations call (301) 235-5400 or (800) 456-3396 Fax: (301) 2345-5572. Identify yourself as "American Research Center in Egypt Conference." The conference rates are \$75 per room, double or single occupancy plus 12%.

Limited student accommodations at reasonable rates can be found at the nearby Carlyle Hotel, 500 West University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218, telephone (410) 889-4500.

For additional information, contact Mrs. Jane Dreyer in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University, telephone: (410) 516-7499.

If you would like to propose a paper or communication to be presented at the 1993 annual meeting, please contact Dr. Betsy Bryan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218 (for the ancient, classical and Coptic period); or to Dr. Charles Butterworth, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 (for medieval Islamic), and to Dr. Nathan Brown, Middle East Studies Program, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052 (for modern Islamic period

panels). So that the Program Committee can decide on its selections early enough to properly advertise the final program and notify participants, a deadline of January 1, 1993, is essential.

People in the News

Not all of us get quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* on important economic matters, but the following snippet came across the ARCE desk at the end of summer. The article by Christina Duff appeared on August 25 and was entitled "Innocents Abroad: Doing the Grand Tour on Weakened Dollars Requires Lots of Them."

"In theory," the writer continues on a second page, "a weak dollar has certain advantages: It improves the U.S. trade balance by lowering the price of U.S. exports and making imports costlier to Americans, and it lifts the value of overseas assets held by investors in the U.S. But all this is little comfort for U.S. travelers abroad this summer. Amid the chic boutiques surrounding the Opera in Paris, **Mona Mikhail** throws up her hands. 'The dollar is killing me!' says the New York University professor. A veteran visitor of Paris, Ms. Mikhail used the buy her entire winter wardrobe there. 'Now I can't afford a pair of shoes—even on sale.'"

Donald Whitcomb's excavation at Aqaba was covered in a segment of CNN News one August evening, where it was disclosed that a hoard of coins from Morocco had been uncovered by his American/Jordanian team. According to the news flash, the coins, which date to the eleventh century, bear witness to the pilgrimage traffic from North Africa that passed through Aqaba in the medieval days. Dr. Whitcomb is a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. He and his wife, **Janet Johnson**, Vice President of ARCE, had excavated in Egypt previously at Qusayr and Luxor.

Many caught the segment of National Geographic Society's program on "Who Built the Pyramids?" that was shown on TBS (in the New York Area) on August 30. It featured the work of Zahi Hawass and **Mark Lehner** on the Giza Plateau and their combined efforts to learn more about the life of the workers who built the Pyramids. Also shown but not identified in some of the footage were **Ann Foster** and **Peter Piccione**.

Dr. Robert Bianchi served as consultant for *Archaeology*, a new television series which aired in October on The Learning Channel of the cable network. Through modern technology and painstaking

research, the series reveals "new truths" about history. "Cleopatra no longer resembles Elizabeth Taylor," says Bianchi. "I want people to see that things are not always what they seem."

Appointment at the ARCE Office

Catherine Clyne received here B.A. in Religious Studies at New York University last fall. She joined the ARCE family as assistant to Executive Director, Terry Walz, in March of this year. She has lived in and traveled to different parts of the world being the daughter of a U.S. foreign service officer. She is currently working on her M.A. in Religious Studies at New York University.

News of Members

Ethel Sheridan, who has been a member of ARCE since 1960, recently wrote us explaining that her eyes had given out and wouldn't be able to continue her membership. We wrote back extending our sympathy and asking her how she became interested in Egypt and ARCE. Here is her letter, written for her by her sister.

"I first became interested in Egyptian culture at the time of the King Tut discovery when I was in high school.

"Since then I've been interested in movies, books, travelogues, and visiting museums.

"Of special interest was my visit to the British Museum in London when I saw the Rosetta Stone and other Egyptian artifacts. Also, I was at the King Tut exhibit at the Los Angeles Museum.

"I do not recall where I first heard of ARCE but am glad I joined and enjoyed your publications describing new and continued excavations." We extend our best wishes to her and thank her for her long association with us.

Britta Le Va, a member in Long Island, opened an exhibition of her photographs at al-Ahram Center in Cairo in October. They included several portraits of Naguib Mahfouz, the Nobel Prize Winner. Since her first visit to Egypt in 1989 Ms. Le Va has undertaken a serious historical and photographic study of Egypt. She is currently working on several projects which include completing work on a portfolio of photographs in conjunction with the publication of *The Encyclopedia of Pyramids* by Dr. Zahi Hawass and preparing a chronological walking guide of Islamic Cairo.

Adrienne Wortzel, a New York City member, recently had an exhibition of prints at New York City Technical College. Her works are interpretations of architectural elements of antiquity from ancient Egypt and Greece. The photoetchings used in these prints were made from her own photographs. One of her

paintings is currently on view at the American Embassy in Cairo.

News of Fellows

Marilyn Booth-Cuno (Fellow, 1987-88), who is married to member Dr. Ken Cuno, recently gave birth to their second child, Carrie, on June 12. The Cunos reside in Champagne-Urbana, IL.

Michael Bonine (Fellow 1992-93) opened an exhibition of his photographs called "Faces and Places from Morocco to Afghanistan" at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona. The exhibition was supported by a grant from the Mobil Foundation and will continue through the spring semester 1993.

Prof. Nezar Alsayyad of the University of California at Berkeley, the brother of 1991-92 ARCE Fellow **Noeman al-Sayyad**, has developed sophisticated computer simulations that recreate the historical evolution of Cairo, Damascus, and Baghdad from the early Islamic period up through the 15th century. The "Modeling Traditional Islamic Cities Project" was developed as an aid to both teaching and research, a recent note in the *Center for Middle Eastern Studies Newsletter* from UC Berkeley reported (Fall 1992). Students of architectural and urban history consult historical texts for data on a site's topography, street plans, known structures, which are then added to the central database. Work on the Islamic Cities Project began in 1990 and has been helped recently by assistance provided by Silicon Valley companies. Prof. Alsayyad's next project will use a similar computer based technique to compare the physical evolution of medieval cities in Europe and the Middle East. He also hopes to couple video technology to his current work on Islamic cities, so that viewers may access a bird's eyeview of Cairo or Damascus and then be able to proceed through those cities, as if on horseback.

LOTUS CLUB MEMBERS 1992 - 1993

The following individuals have renewed their membership in the Lotus Club for the year 1992-93. If you are a member and haven't yet renewed your contribution of \$100 above and beyond membership dues, won't you take time now and send them in? One hundred dollars of the Lotus Club dues is deposited into our general endowment fund. In return for your contribution, ARCE sends you a beautiful Lotus Club pin.

Dieter Arnold
Dorothea Arnold
Lois Aroian
Barbara Bell
Monique Bell
Kate Bianchi
Bernard Bothmer
Carmine Bracale
Louise Bradbury
Lily M. Brown
Betsy & Charles Bryan
Charles Butterworth
Marion B. Clough
I. L. Cohen
Joyce Cohrs
Donald Couillard
George A. D'Angelo
Gilbert M. Denman
Laurel Drake
Margaret Duggan
Sylvia J. Egan
Donald Etz
Miss Biri Fay
Richard Fazzini
Linda Gail Feinstone
Jane Ferson
Amy Fisher
Florence Friedman
Wolfgang Frye
Adel S. Gamal
Leanna Gaskins
Ogden Goelet
David A. Goodman
Oleg Grabar
Nimet Habachy
Suzan Habachy
James E. Harris
Barbara Herbert
Sameh Iskander
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jackson
Edward Johnson
George M. Joseph
Jack Josephson

Martha Kellner
Charles Kemppe
Norma Kershaw
Alvin W. Ladd
Barbara W. Lannon
Victoria La Sala
Pat Legan
Brad Leissa
Dr. Paul Edwin LeRoy
Ann Lesch
Robert Lowdermilk
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Maher
A. Bruce Mainwaring
James V. Mazuca
Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid Marsot
William McMurray
Barbara G. Mertz
Alicia Meza
Arthur H. Muir
William K. Miller
Francis Niedenfuhr
Susan Niedenfuhr
Jean K. Nielsen
Anne Ogilvy
Marshall Payn
Harriette M. Peters
Karl G. Peterson
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Petron
Miriam Reitz Baer
Robert W. Root
Aleya Rouchdy
George Rumney
E. Grant Shackelford
Dr. Gay Robins
Thomas M. Smith
Stephen C. Sperry
Carol Starnes McCanless
Miss Alice Tully
Michael Van Vleck
Terry Walz
Nancy Wolcott and Al Brown
Arlene E. Wolinski

NEW YORK LECTURE PROGRAM Winter/Spring 1993

January 28. **Jack Josephson**, New York City. "COLLECTING EGYPTIAN ART." Mr. Josephson has one of the finest collections of Egyptian art in the City. In the course of collecting, he has also become an expert in the art of ancient Egypt. Place: Hagop Kevorkian Center, Room LL3-4, New York University, 50 Washington Square South, Corner of Sullivan Street.

February 11. **Alexander Kitroeff**, Department of History and the Onassis Center, New York University "THE EUROPEANS IN MODERN ALEXANDRIA: FROM MOHAMED ALI TO NASSER." Place: Hagop Kevorkian Center, Room LL3-4.

February 25. **Eliezer D. Oren**, Archaeology Division, Ben Gurion University "THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAP OF NORTH SINAI AND THE PROPOSED AL-SALAM CANAL." Dr. Oren has worked for many years on the archaeological sites of the Northern Sinai and has advised various UNESCO teams on the subject. Since the monuments are endangered by a new sweetwater canal that is currently under construction, his work has assumed a new importance. The Egyptian Antiquities Organization is now working in the area.

March 11. **Antonia Lant**, Department of Performing Arts, New York University "CONSUMING CLEOPATRA: EGYPT IN AMERICAN FILM AND ADVERTISING." Dr. Lant has taught a course on Egypt in films, and is currently an assistant professor of film studies at New York University's Department of Cinema Studies. Place: Hagop Kevorkian Center, Room LL3-4 (tentative)

April 30. **Dr. Gunter Dreyer**, German Archaeological Institute, Cairo "RECENT EXCAVATIONS OF THE ROYAL TOMBS AT ABYDOS." Place: Institute of Fine Arts, 1 East 78th Street, 6 pm.

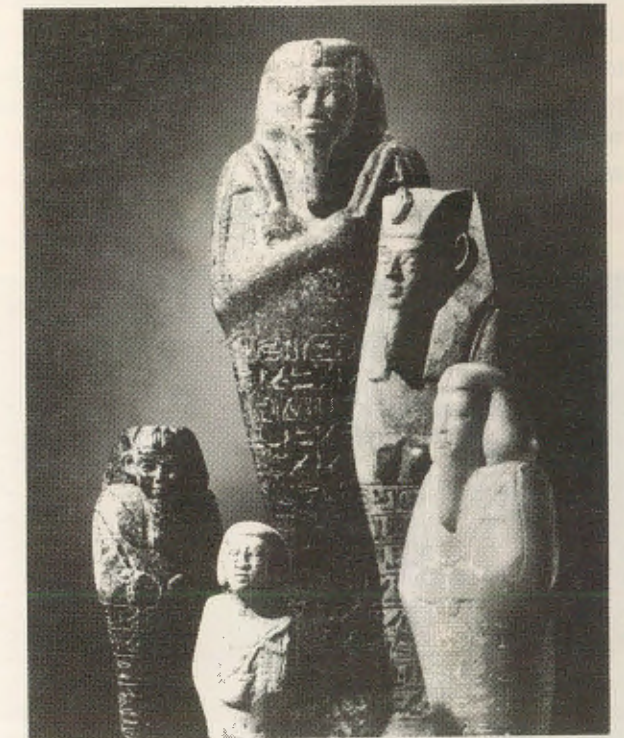
May 13. **Thelma Thomas**, Kelsey Museum, Ann Arbor "AESTHETICS AND CULTURAL TRADITION IN LATE ANTIQUE EGYPT: The New Realms of Evidence." Place: Hagop Kevorkian Center, Room LL3-4

Museum News

The Coptic Museum in Cairo is displaying a rare fourth century copy of *David's Psalms*, said to be the oldest book in the world. It is written in the Coptic dialect of Middle Egypt. A story on the display appeared in the *al-Ahram* on 16 September 1992.

The University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania will premiere a new exhibition from October 10, 1992 through October 3, 1993 entitled "*Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa*." More than 300 artifacts from the Museum's large and renowned Nubian collection help to trace the history of Nubia over a 3,500-year period, from circa 3100 B.C. to A.D. 400.

The exhibition documents the rise and fall of a series of Nubian kingdoms, the richness and variety of their indigenous cultures, and Nubia's relationship with Egypt. Statues of ancient Nubians and inscriptions in the still-undeciphered writing of the Meroitic Nubians are featured. Also represented is pottery with animal and plant motifs, vessels made of bronze, inlaid wood and faience; and a wide range of ancient personal adornments crafted of such materials as gold, shell, amethyst and faience.



From the new exhibition. *Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa*, at The University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania. A group of Napatan royal ushabtis, circa 690-593 B.C. belonging to (clockwise from center top figure): King Taharqa, King Anlemani, King Taharqa, an unknown queen and King Senhamenisen.

After its Philadelphia premiere, it is scheduled to travel to the following cities: the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey; the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California; Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida; Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, New York; Kelsey Museum, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland; and Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California presents *"In the Tomb of Nefertari: Conservation of the Wall Paintings."* The exhibit which will run through February 21, 1993, explores the six-year conservation process of the wall paintings of the Egyptian tomb of Nefertari originally painted more than 3200 years ago. The exhibit features a full-scale replica of one of the tomb's six chambers and Egyptian antiquities. The works of art on view have been lent by the Brooklyn Museum; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Harer Family Trust, San Bernardino; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The primary focus of the exhibition is the conservation process. The display invites visitors to explore the site and the wall paintings, and learn about the discovery and photographic documentation of the tomb, preparations for the project, the conservation problems, treatment, evidence for the original artists' working methods, the present condition of the tomb and prospects for its future.



Conservators at work in the tomb of Nefertari, Valley of the Queens, western Thebes, Upper Egypt. Photo: Guillermo Aldana

An illustrated catalogue, *In the Tomb of Nefertari: Conservation of the Wall Paintings* (paperback, \$19.95, available in the Museum's bookstore or by telephone order, 1-800-223-3431) contains essays on the significance of the Nefertari tomb paintings and the recent conservation work.

The exhibition will travel to the Centro Cultural/Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City (spring-summer 1993.)

The Newark Museum exhibition in their Junior Gallery called *"Stepping into Ancient Egypt: the House of the Artist Pashed"* will continue through 1993.

Egypt in the News

Islamic Monuments and the Water Table in Cairo

A UNESCO report in September claims that many of the Islamic monuments in the historical quarters of Cairo are floating on a veritable lake of water leaking from turn-of-the-century sewage and water networks. The quarters affected included Gamaliya, Khalifa, Sayyida Zalnab, and al-Darb al-Ahmar, but in fact the whole of Mu'izzliddin Allah Street is affected. That street contains some of the most famous Islamic monuments in all of Cairo.

Abdel Rahman Abdel Tawwab of the EAO reported in *al-Ahram Weekly* (September 10-16, 1992) that the high water table will remain a threat to the monuments until the sewage and water networks are renovated.

In a related story, it was disclosed that the encroachment of illegal housing on Islamic historical sites has also contributed to the degradation of the sites. Efforts to transfer ownership of the sites to the Ministry of Culture from the Ministry of Awqaf, which could alleviate some of these housing infractions, have not yet succeeded.

UNESCO Plan to Preserve the Pyramids Plateau

In the *Al-Ahram Weekly* (August 23-29, 1992), reporter Mustafa El-Naggar announced that UNESCO has finally settled the long discussions which have run for the past two years over the development of the Pyramids area as one of the greatest archaeological sites worldwide and presenting a comprehensive plan to preserve this precious area for the coming generations.

Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni immediately ordered the formation of a working team to implement the project headed by the head of the Antiquities Department, Dr. Ibrahim Bakr, together with other prominent Egyptian archaeology experts.

Notice of Lost or Stolen Works of Art

Three Egyptian sculptures were shipped via Emery Worldwide from The Cleveland Museum of Art on October 1, 1992, to the Edward Merrin Gallery in New York City for an exhibit which took place on October 15th through November 14th, 1992 and the sculptures never arrived.

A reward of up to \$50,000 is being offered on behalf of the insurers by Maxson Young Associates, Inc., for the safe return of these three lost or stolen Egyptian antiquities and/or any information leading to their recovery and apprehension, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for their disappearance.

Any person(s) willing to come forward with any information about these pieces may contact Maxson Young Associates at (212) 354-5588 or 1 (800) 7660-2779, or the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



Caryatid Mirror with Handle in the Form of the God Bes, New Kingdom, Dynasty XVIII, Bronze, Height 12-3/4"



Portrait Head, probably of a King, Early Dynasty XIX, ca. 1300 B.C. Rose granite, Height 5-1/2"



Egyptian Head of a Priest, Dynasty XXX, 360-342 B.C. Polished black diorite, 7-1/2"

UNESCO's project due to be implemented this October, will include constructing a circular road around the pyramids plateau, blocking any mechanical, human or construction activity inside what is going to be a closed area.

All the buildings and roads which were previously constructed inside the pyramids plateau will be removed, and cars will not be allowed in.

UNESCO's project also includes the construction of three cultural centers; the first, to be situated at the

entrance of the plateau, close to the Mena House hotel, will be devoted to the story of the pyramids and their religious significance. It will be provided with modern equipment and will be selling archaeological books and replicas.

The second center will be built at Sahara City and will be provided with another means of entertainment. It will be devoted to the story of the construction of the Pyramids. Visitors will be able to enter the center via the Cairo Fayoum desert road.

The third will be constructed in front of the Sphinx, where the current Sound and Light show takes place. It will tell the story of the Sphinx and its history.

Pyramids' Plateau Master Plan Underway

Omayma Abdel-Latif, reporter for *Al-Ahram Weekly* (September 2, 1992) covered the preparatory work which began the first phase of the UNESCO construction plan of a ring road around the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx.

According to Dr. Zahi Hawass, Director of Antiquities of the Giza Plateau, excavation has begun in the area where the road will be constructed in order to salvage any monuments likely to be found there.

He said that while the 8-km road is being mapped out by the Engineering Center of the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, restoration work is continuing on the queens' pyramids, the nobles' tombs and the pyramid of Menkaure.

Another proposal under consideration is the removal of the boat shaped museum, thought by many to be unsightly, which contains the ancient solar boat of the Pharaoh Cheops, unearthed in 1954. "It really detracts from the natural and archeological setting," said Dr. Ibrahim Bakr, EAO chairman.

Dr. Bakr recently signed an agreement with the Japanese to excavate a second solar boat buried in an ancient sealed pit at the foot of the Pyramids. "The master plan includes the construction of a new museum which will house the two boats and will hopefully be unobtrusive".

Tomb Restorations in the Valley of the Kings

Dr. Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, and Miguel Angel Corzo, director of the Getty Conservation Institute, agreed recently to undertake the restoration of King Tutankamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings which has fallen into disrepair. The Getty expects restoration to take several months, according to an article in *al-Ahram Weekly* (September 10-16, 1992). Glass partitions will be erected over the wall paintings of the

tomb to preserve them from further damage from humidity.

Visitors to the Valley of the Kings this last year will have noticed that Seti I's tomb is also closed for fissures that have appeared in the tomb. The most known are being injected with glutinous consolidating substances. Once this process is complete, restoration of the reliefs will ensue. The tomb will remain closed until February 1993—at least.

Mummies Getting a New Home

During the summer, correspondent Michael Georgy reported in *The New York Times* travel section on the Egyptian Museum's new renovation project. The museum, which receives 100,000 visitors a month, has started the construction which includes new quarters for some of the royal mummies and a face lift for the Tutankhamen exhibit.

A dozen of the 27 mummies are scheduled to be displayed in October in new hermetic air-controlled cases designed to prevent decay. The oxygen-free cases were developed by the Getty Conservation Institute.

Tutankhamen, the museum's most popular attraction, has been moved into a larger room, which has been retiled and painted. The king's jewels, collars and daggers rest on new beige linen.

Museum officials say they are determined to install modern conservation technology, and provide better access and tidier displays for the massive pharaonic collection. Several items, such as the 18th dynasty sandstone head of Queen Hatshepsut removed from her temple at Deir el-Bahari, have been covered with Plexiglas.

Skeletons Out of the Closet: 40 years later

In the 1940's hundreds of skeletons were taken from Cairo Museum to Qasr El-Aini Hospital for study. Forty years later they have been rediscovered, still at the hospital. *Al-Ahram Weekly* reporters Dina Ezzat and Rehab Saad recounted how each skeleton was carefully put in a box, and an identifying label attached. But once moved, they were soon forgotten.

A committee of experts from the Egyptian Antiquities Organization moved in and studied the remains. They found that some dated from pre-history and others extended through to Islamic times.

According to Dr. Khairi El-Samra, dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Cairo University, "We have always known of the presence of these skeletons and bones in our hospital museum, but there was no way of telling their importance." He continued, "True each skeleton was labelled and identified, but the name

"Sheshonk", for example, meant nothing to us, whereas an Egyptologist would immediately recognize the name as one of the Libyan kings of the 23rd dynasty."

Now that the skeletons have been identified, they will be returned to the Egyptian Museum.

Officials Warn of Violence in South Egypt

In the Sunday November 1, 1992 travel section of *The New York Times*, reporter Chris Hedges related the decision of Embassy officials of the United States, Britain and Australia to warn their citizens to stay out of areas in southern Egypt following an attack in October by Islamic militants on an open safari type vehicle that killed a British tourist. The officials said their warning did not apply to the major tourist sites such as Luxor and Aswan. The State Department's advisory cautioned Americans against traveling to Minya and Asyut provinces, particularly the town of Dairut, in Asyut, and surrounding areas.

Upcoming Symposia

The Department of History of Science at the University of Oklahoma is planning a symposium entitled "Transmission and Science: Cultural Exchange in the Premodern World," to be held 25-27 February 1993. Nineteen participants have been invited to present papers in four sessions on the institutional, cultural, and philosophical implications of transmission. For information on the symposium, contact Steven J. Lifesey or F. Jamil Ragep, Department of the History of Science, the University of Oklahoma, 601 Elm, Room 622, Norman, OK 73019. Telephone: (405) 325-2213; Fax (405) 325-2363.

Library Donations

George Gibson recently left his position as Provost and Dean of Faculty at the American University in Cairo, having served part of his time there as the AUC Representative on our Board of Governors. Before leaving Cairo, he very kindly donated to the ARCE Library the second volume of *The History of Ancient Egyptian Art* by Perrot and Chipiez, originally published in French as *Histoire de l'Art dans l'Antiquite*.

If any member owns a copy of Volume One of this work and wishes to donate it to the Library, we would be most grateful.

Publications

The catalog of Bob Brier's exhibition at the Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, entitled "*Egyptomania*," which was held June 12 to

July 24, 1992, has been published. It includes several color plates among the many illustrations. Some of the objects lent to the museum were lent by ARCE members, including a handbag (Monique Bell), a painting (Adrienne Wortzel), and numerous Egyptomaniacal pieces (Richard Fazzini and Mary McKercher). For copies of the paperback catalog, contact the museum at (516) 299-2789. The cost is \$12.00 plus \$1.20 for shipping and handling.

New Books

Aleya Rouchdy, editor, *The Arabic Language in America*. (Wayne State University Press, 1992, \$44.95 cloth; \$19.95 paper.)

The contents has three parts: "Language Contact and Language Change: The Use of Arabic: Aspects and Attitudes; and Teaching and Learning. Dr. Rouchdy contributed one of the articles, "Borrowing in Arab-American Speech," and Roger Allen, "Teaching Arabic in the United States: Past, Present and Future."

Arielle P. Kozloff and Betsy M. Bryan with Lawrence M. Berman and an essay by Elisabeth Delange, *Egypt's Dazzling Sun: Amenhotep III and His World*. (Indiana University Press, 1992: \$60.00 cloth, \$31.95 paper.)

The richly illustrated catalog of the exhibition that received much favorable comment. An essay by Elisabeth Delange reviews more than two centuries of research and excavations surrounding Amenhotep III; Lawrence Berman's history of the reign treats politics, religion, international relations, Amenhotep III's family, and the leading personalities of the era. Betsy M. Bryan outlines the king's ambitious building program, in which the temples and their decoration functioned as a well-developed scheme that placed Amenhotep III at the center of Egypt's cosmogony; Arielle P. Kozloff describes the usurpation and recarving of a portrait of Amenhotep III during the reign of Ramesses II, identifies previously unrecognized iconography in ritual objects of work and ivory, and provides new criteria for dating glass vessels. The rest of the catalog presents 143 objects drawn from museums in the U.S., Europe, and Egypt.

Renee Friedman and Barbara Adams, editors, *The Followers of Horus: Studies Dedicated to Michael Allen Hoffman*. \$45.00 cloth. Oxford, 1992. Order from Oxbox Publications.

Hoffman's life and work are covered by two introductory essays. The topics covered in the forty

articles, many of which contain original work, are chiefly those which were of great interest of the subject: the Predynastic and Early Dynastic of Egypt, its physical setting and the rise of complex society. There are papers by all members of the Hierakonpolis expedition, the site with which Hoffman's name became synonymous, covering various aspects of the archaeological work undertaken there.

Egypt: Gift of the Nile an Aerial Portrait, Photographs by Guido Alberto Rossi, text by Max Rodenbeck, (Abrams, New York, 1992: \$45.00 cloth.) This volume presents Egypt as it is rarely seen—from the air. With 178 remarkable full-color images by Guido Alberto Rossi, the Italian photographer well known for his aerial pictures. The text is by Max Rodenbeck who has lived in Egypt for more than fifteen years.

The Nile Delta in Transition: 4th-3rd Millennium B.C., edited and published by Edwin C.M. van den Brink, distributed by the Israel Exploration Society, Jerusalem. \$60.00 and \$6.00 postage. Orders sent to: Israel Exploration Society, P.O.B. 7041, Jerusalem.

Proceedings of the seminar held in Cairo, October 21-24, 1990 at the Netherlands Institute of Archaeology and Arabic Studies. The seminar included geologists, Egyptologists, and Syro-Palestinian archaeologists who focused on the transitional late Chalcolithic-Protodynastic period in Lower Egypt, and on the interconnections with the contemporary Naqada II-III culture in Upper Egypt, with the Eastern and Western Deserts, and with late Chalcolithic/ Early Bronze I Sinai-Southern Canaan. The latter coincides with the period of the so-called Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt, during which time writing was introduced.

Yusuf Idris: Changing Visions, by Dalya Cohen Mor (price: \$39.95 cloth), and *Yusuf Idris: The Piper Dies and Other Stories*, translated from Arabic and introduced by Dalya Cohen-Mor (price: \$15.95 paper). Both available from Sheba Press, P.O. Box 59637, Potomac, MD 20859-9637. Add \$2.00 per book for postage.

New Journals

Bulletin of Regional Cooperation in the Middle East, edited by Richard Eisendorf. The *Bulletin* is a quarterly publication of the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East and reports on the

programs and activities of non-governmental organizations worldwide that deal with regional security, economic cooperation, conflict resolution, and civil society in the Middle East. The primary features of the *Bulletin* are "Reports of Activities," "Calendar of Events" and "New Publications." Annual subscription is \$20. For subscriptions, write 1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20009.

Chapter News

Southern California

January 8-10, 1993: ARCE/SC is projecting a visit to Fort Worth to view the Amenhotep II exhibition at the Kimbell Museum. Dr. William Murnane is expected to lecture the group during the visit. If you wish to join and for further information, contact Pat Swearingner at the number listed above.

February, 1993: Manfred Bietak is scheduled to speak on the archaeological work at Tell al-Daba's.

March, 1993: Nancy Thomas, Curator of Ancient and Islamic Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will lead a guided tour through the museum's collections. For further information, contact Noel Sweitzer, president of the chapter, (213) 231-1104.

Washington, D.C.

For further information, contact Francis Niedenfurh, president of the chapter, at (202) 363-5196.

Tucson, Arizona

October 3-December 30: "Temple, Tomb, and Dwelling," an exhibition of the Harer Family Collection, will be on view at the University of Arizona Museum of Art. Several talks, including lectures by Prof. John Baines and Dr. Donald Redford, are being organized round the exhibition.

The Chapter Newsletter has reported of the Arizona Valley of the Kings Expedition which proved completely successful in the completion of the clearance of royal-related tomb WV214 in the Western Valley of the Kings, and other excavations in the same area. Now the required approvals have been given and the way is clear to begin work on the major part of the project—the clearance of one of the last few unexcavated royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and one of great historical importance: the tomb of King Amenmesse (as well as his wife and his mother). For further details, contact Richard Wilkinson, chapter president, (602) 621-3933.

South Texas

For further information, contact Polly Price, secretary of the chapter, (512) 657-2428.

The following communication has been received from Prof. Birgir A. Pearson of the University of California at Santa Barbara:

The New Alexandria Library: Promise or Threat

Of all the vanished monuments of the ancient world, the Mouseion of Alexandria and its associated Library is one of the most famous. Founded either by Alexander the Great's successor in Egypt, Ptolemy I Soter (323-283 BCE), or by the latter's son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus (283/2-246), the Mouseion-Library complex, with its research scholars, established Alexandria as the cultural and scientific center of the ancient world. Indeed, this institution constituted what has rightly been called "the first universal library in the history of mankind" (Mostafa El-Abbadi, *The Life and Fate of the Ancient Library of Alexandria* [UNESCO, 1990], p.8). Now, in the vicinity of the ancient one long vanished, a new "Bibliotheca Alexandrina" is taking shape.

The project to "revive" the ancient library and establish in Alexandria a universal center of research and scholarship in the spirit of its predecessor was conceived in the 1970s by leading scholars in the University of Alexandria. The planning began in earnest in 1985, with the allocation of a site on property owned by the University. Since then a General Organization of the Alexandrian Library (GOAL) has been established, and the project has gained international support through the good offices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and several national governments. An international architectural competition resulted in the submission of a winning design by Snohetta Architecture and Landscape of Oslo, Norway. According to information published by GOAL, the Library is scheduled to be officially inaugurated in July, 1995, by which time its holdings are expected to have reached a half-million volumes,

with an expected capacity of 8 million. This ambitious project promises to establish Alexandria once again as an international center of culture and scientific research.

But this promise also constitutes a threat of major proportions. The construction site corresponds to that occupied in antiquity by the royal palaces of the original Library's founders. Despite the fact that the historical associations of the construction site are well known to the project planners ("on the site of the Palace of the Ptolemies"), the project does not include provision for scientific archaeological excavation and documentation of the site prior to construction, even through scholars in Egypt and abroad have, at least since 1986, urged the planners to allow for archaeological excavation. It has even been suggested by some of these scholars that provisions be made in the building design for incorporating into it a subterranean archaeological museum (a practice common Europe). As it is, we are faced with an anomaly of supreme irony: Planning for a "revival" of the famous Library of old includes obliterating for all time part of the cultural legacy left by its ancient founders in the archaeological record beneath the ground.

Out of concern for the threat posed by the Alexandrian Library project as it is now conceived, the Fifth International Congress of Coptic Studies, meeting recently in Washington, DC, passed a resolution calling upon GOAL, the Governorate of Alexandria, and other relevant Egyptian authorities "to allow for a scientific archaeological excavation under the auspices of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization before proceeding with construction." It also calls upon UNESCO and other interested scholarly and cultural organizations throughout the world to join in this appeal. Interestingly enough, the most ardent supporters of this resolution were the Egyptians present.

It is to be hoped that enough other voices will be raised to avert the cultural threat posed by this construction project before it is too late. On the other hand, if proper attention is given to the archaeological record on the site—whatever this may prove to be—the new Alexandria Library can fulfill its promise as a worthy successor to the famous Library of old.

THE NEWS FROM CAIRO

June 1992 - December 1993



The Cairo office began their summer activities with Monday and Wednesday evening seminars by visiting scholars and ARCE Fellows. The first to be presented was a lecture on June 3rd by Professor Raymond Hinnebusch of the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, entitled "The Egyptian State from Nasser to Mubarak: A Weberian Interpretation". Although the weather was turning hot, there continued to be a good turnout for the June lectures. Professor **Peter Gran** was the speaker to follow on June 15th. Peter, an ARCE fellow, spoke on "The Problem of Studying Egyptian History as Comparative History: The 19th Century". ARCE Fellow, **Mostafa El Arabi**, was next on June 17th with his lecture entitled "Informal Housing Sector in Alexandria". "The Earliest Biography of Abu Hanifa" was the title of the lecture presented by ARCE Fellow **Eerik Dickinson** on June 22nd. Tarek Nabil Swelim, Kress Fellow in Egyptian Art and Architecture, made a presentation on "Ibn Tulun Mosque: A New Outlook" on the 24th of June. The last presentation for the month of June was "Greco-Roman Terracottas: Insights on Life in Rural Egypt" was given by Dr. **Marti Lu Allen**, Assistant Director, Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Brigham Young University. By all accounts a really full schedule for the beginning of the summer.

July was a little quieter with only three lectures scheduled as the temperatures soared into the low 100's. Our first lecture was given by Dr. **Carol Redmount** and **Renee Friedman**, Co-Directors of the Tell El-Muqdam Project. The lecture was entitled, "Current Investigations at Tell El-Muqdam". Dr. **Diana Delia** made the next presentation on July 8th, "The Alexandria Library". Diana is Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Texas A & M University.

ARCE Fellow, Dr. Raymond Baker was the last speaker of the summer session giving a presentation on "Work in Progress: Film and Egyptian Civil Society". Many thanks to all the Fellow and the above scholars whose contribution made the end of our academic season a very successful one.

August was a month to catch our breath and get ready for the new season beginning September 1st. Ibrahim Sadek and Ellen Granger began work on a new membership brochure for the 1992-1993 season whose publication is made possible through the kind donation of \$1,000 by Mobil Egypt. Mark Easton arrived mid-August and took up his new position as Director of ARCE. The staff welcomed the arrival of Mark and his son Greg who is attending Cairo American College.

A new lecture series by Dr. Joselyn Gohary began September 21, 1992 entitled "Life in Ancient Egypt". Jocelyn has been a wonderful addition to ARCE and we hope to have her continue our weekend day trips/tours to the surrounding archaeological sights as soon as the weather gets a little cooler.

William Lyster once again joined us in November. He presented a shorter version of his Islamic History course, this time giving a series of 4 classes beginning November 18th.

Several special lectures are scheduled by visiting scholars such as Dr. **Robert Bianchi** of the Brooklyn Museum and Dr. **Peter Dorman** of Chicago House, Dr. Rita Freed, Dr. **David Silverman** and Dr. **Edward Brovarski** all working jointly on the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania Expedition to Bersheh.

From the Development side things are moving along nicely. This year we have received substantial donations from Mobil, Atlantic Industries, Otis, and AMOCO. We have promises of more to come as we begin our building fund drive and prepare to move into a new facility on the floor below us sometime in 1993. We are indeed very grateful to all the above corporations who have helped us out during the year.

During the summer months, negotiations for the new premises were finalized and this fall, winter and spring we will be busy pushing our engineer Ibrahim Sadek to finish our new offices, Library, Auditorium, Conference Center, Computer Center and Fellows' residences. All these will be housed on the new floor we are acquiring, which is over four times the area of our present offices. We hope, when the move is finalized, to redecorate our present office into a Residence for ARCE Cairo directors.

In November, we had to regretfully part with our beloved Fostat. The sale has been completed.

We have also said goodbye to the good old VW

van and the Land Rover many of you know. Their repair costs were overtaking their usefulness. We now hope to get better more suitable cars to make available to expeditions and other friends and visitors.

CAIRO FALL LECTURE SERIES

September 2 - Professor James Harrell, Chairman and Professor, Department of Geology, University of Toledo, "NEW FINDINGS AT ANCIENT EGYPTIAN STONE QUARRIERS"

September 9 - Dr. Mohamed A. KASSAS, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Science, Cairo University, "ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF THE 21st CENTURY"

September 23 - Dr. Hamza Abdel Aziz BADR, Assistant Professor, Asyut University (Sohag Campus), "WAKF AND FUNERAL TRADITIONS IN OTTOMAN CAIRO"

September 30 - Dr. Youssef MAZHAR, First Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Industry, "TECHNOLOGY IN PHARAONIC TIMES"

October 7 - Professor Fayza Haikal, American University in Cairo, "THE NORTH SINAI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE PROJECT"

October 19 - Dr. Robert Bianchi, Metropolitan Museum of Art, "TEMPLE OF DENDUR: FROM NUBIA TO NEW YORK"

October 21 - Dr. Hassan Ragab, Retired General. "EL ALAMEIN 50 YEARS HENCE; AN EGYPTIAN PERSPECTIVE"

October 28 - Dr. Gamal Mokhtar, Chairman Emeritus, Egyptian Antiquities Organization, "RESTORATION OF EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS"

November 2 - Dr. Rita Freed, Curator, Department of Egyptian, Nubian, and Ancient Middle East Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Director Bersheh Expedition, "FOR GOLD, GOD AND GLORY: NUBIA IN THE NEW KINGDOM AGE"

November 4 - Dr. Dan Crecelius, Fulbright Research Scholar "REFLECTIONS ON DAMIETTE IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY"

November 17 - Dr. Betsy Bryan, Johns Hopkins University, "THE ROYAL MONUMENTS; ONGOING RESEARCH ON THE 18TH DYNASTY"

November 25 - Dr. Jere Bacharach, Fulbright Scholar, University of Washington, "UMAYYAD DESERT PALACES: A RECONSIDERATION"

Earthquake Report

On Monday, October 12th, Cairo experienced an earth shattering event. At around 3:00 pm, an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale, hit the city, with an epicenter just north of Fayyoun. It lasted for approximately 45 seconds.

Fortunately, ARCE's extended family suffered no serious damage or injuries. The office, located on the second floor seemed to tremble and sway as a tremendous rumble was heard. Most people in the building seemed unaware that an earthquake had taken place but rather assumed that an explosion had caused the tremendous vibration. A spontaneous evacuation of the building took place, with some literally walking out of their shoes as they raced to get out of the building! Crowds gathered in clusters on the busy Midan Kasr El Doubara as hundreds of people poured out of the Intercontinental Hotel and the American Embassy building just beside our facility. None of the people in automobiles going by realized what had happened! It appeared as though more people would be injured by passing cars as they fled into the street than by falling rocks or bricks from crumbling facades. Hassan Suliman, messenger in the ARCE office for the past 27 years apparently suffered the worst personal damage in that his home is very badly damaged. He was obliged to move in order for extensive repairs to take place.

Egypt's pharaonic antiquities suffered almost no damage, however, many Islamic and some Coptic and Jewish monuments were not so fortunate. Teams of restoration experts are arriving weekly to assess the damage and determine what can be done.

We look forward to a new year, a new facility and feel very blessed to have survived the earthquake with everyone intact!

Ellen Granger

Subscription Lecture Series, New York

Below is a listing of Subscription Lecture Series in New York for the Spring, 1993. For further information as well as subscription rates, call (212) 998-8890.

Diana Craig Patch

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
"THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN ANCIENT EGYPT."

Six Friday evenings, beginning March 5

Place: Uris Conference Center and Classroom 3
(check schedule)
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Fifth Avenue at 81st Street

March 5 "When and Where"

This lecture introduces the archaeology of the prehistoric and early historic periods (ca. 5000-2650 BC). The discussion will focus on the cultural and chronological divisions of these periods and the major sites that yielded early remains.
Place: Classroom 3

March 12 "How Did They Make It"

The ancient inhabitants of the Nile Valley exploited a variety of materials to make objects necessary for daily life. This lecture examines the range of technological expertise achieved during this time and how it foreshadowed Pharaonic material culture.
Place: Uris Conference Room

March 19 "The Fabric of Society"

Despite the sketchy nature of the archaeological record, some conclusions about the structure of early Egyptian society can be drawn. In addition to information about individual households, the political and economic structures of village life will be explored.
Place: Classroom 3

March 26 "The Dawn of Religion"

By the beginning of the Predynastic Period, Egyptians were providing themselves with supernatural protection. This talk looks at the evidence for early cult and mortuary religion.
Place: Uris Conference Room

April 2 "The Early Egyptians and Their Neighbors"

Although the Nile Valley was a safe and fertile homeland, the ancient Egyptians' desire for luxury goods brought them into contact with other African peoples as well as Near Eastern populations. Some of these interactions were peaceful, others aggressive.
Place: Uris Conference Room

April 9 "The Rise of the State"

Ancient Egypt represents one of the earliest states in the ancient world and its origins lie in Predynastic Egypt. This last lecture discusses what we know about Egypt's transition to civilization and the possible reasons for its appearance in the Nile River Valley.
Place: Uris Conference Room

Dr. Diana Craig Patch received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. She was a project director at the Carnegie Mellon Museum of Natural History. She was field director of the Pennsylvania/Yale Expedition to Abydos in 1982-33 to research and install The Hall of Ancient Egyptian Civilization. For the last two years she has been Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is working on amulets, their contexts, and how their types change over time.

\$75

Donald B. Spanel

Assistant Curator
Department of Egyptian, Classical and Ancient Middle Eastern Art
The Brooklyn Museum
"INTRODUCTION TO COPTIC CULTURE"

4 Monday evenings, beginning March 1

Place: Hagop Kevorkian Center
New York University
Room LL3-4

March 1 "Overview"

The Copts are the inheritors of the civilization of ancient Egypt and the indigenous Christians of the Nile Valley. But what exactly does the word "Coptic" denote? Is it an appropriate designation for the arts of Egypt after the introduction of Christianity? How does the Coptic religious doctrine differ from other forms of Christianity? What are the basics of the Coptic language? These and other basic definitions of Coptic culture will be the subject of this first lecture.

March 8 "Coptic Art"

What is Coptic art and how can it be defined? In this and the following lecture, Dr. Spanel will examine the architectural contexts of Coptic art, the predominance of non-Christian themes, and review the most important categories of what is known as "Coptic art."

March 15 "Coptic Art"

A continuation of the major themes of the March 9 lecture.

March 22 "History of the Coptic Church"

The Coptic Church is intricately tied to the Copts and their culture. The lecture will focus on the introduction of Christianity to Egypt and the origins of monotheism, the persecution of the Egyptian Christians by the Roman emperors, relations between dioceses of Alexandria and Constantinople, the Council of Chalcedon, and the emergence of the monophysite doctrine.

Donald B. Spanel received his doctorate in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Toronto. He has edited several Coptic texts and has written numerous articles on the Coptic patriarchs and martyrs for the recently published *Coptic Encyclopaedia* and the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*.

\$60



ARCE REPORTS

1. *Quseir al-Qadim 1978: Preliminary Report*. D. S. Whitcomb and J. H. Johnson. 1979. Pp. 352, 57 figures, 89 plates. Paper. \$15.50
2. *Mendes I. R. K. Holz, D. Stieglitz, D. P. Hansen, E. Ochsenchlager*. 1980. Pp. xxi + 83, 40 plates, indexes. Cloth. ISBN 0-936770-02-3. \$45.00
4. *Cities of the Delta, Part 1: Naukratis: Preliminary Report on the 1977-78 and 1980 Seasons*. W. Coulson, A. Leonard, Jr. 1981. Pp. xiv + 108, 46 illus., 10 plates. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-080-4. \$16.00
5. *Cities of the Delta, Part 2: Mendes: Preliminary Report on the 1979 and 1980 Seasons*. K. L. Wilson. 1982. Pp. xiii + 43, 35 illus. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-083-9. \$14.50
6. *Cities of the Delta, Part 3: Tell el-Maskhuta: Preliminary Report on the Wadi Tumilat Project 1978-1979*. J. S. Holladay, Jr. 1982. Pp. x + 160, 3 foldouts, 46 plates. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-084-7. \$22.25
7. *Quseir al-Qadim 1980*. D. S. Whitcomb, J. H. Johnson. 1982. Pp. 418. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-112-6. \$23.50
8. *Fustat Expedition Final Report. Vol. 1: Catalogue of Filters*. George T. Scanlon. 1986. Pp. x + 153, 24 plates. Paper. ISBN 0-936770-13-9. \$23.50
Cloth. \$32.50
9. *Archaeological Investigations at El-Hibeh 1980: Preliminary Report*. Robert J. Wenke. 1984. Pp. xii + 142, 12 plates. LC 84-050291. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-154-1. \$23.50
Cloth. ISBN 0-89003-155-X. \$32.50
10. *The Tomb Chamber of HSW the Elder: The Inscribed Material at Kom el-Hisn, Part 1: Plates. Ancient Naukratis, Volume 3*. David P. Silverman. 1989. Pp. ix + 146 (78 photos, 114 line figs., 2 foldouts). Cloth. ISBN 0-936770-17-1. \$29.50
11. *Fustat Expedition Final Report, Volume 2: Fustat-C*. Władysław Kubiak and George T. Scanlon. 1989. Pp. x + 101 (68 photos, 45 line figs., 6 foldouts, color frontispiece). Cloth. ISBN 0-936770-21-X. \$32.50
12. *Deir el-Ballas: Preliminary Report on the Deir el-Ballas Expedition, 1980-1986*. Peter Lacovara. 1990. Pp. x + 67 (including figures) + 17 plates + 5 plans in pocket. Cloth. ISBN 24-4. \$29.50

ARCE CATALOGS

1. *The Luxor Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art Catalogue*. James F. Romano and others. 1979. Pp. xv + 219, 16 color plates, 169 illus. Cloth. ISBN 0-913696-30-7. \$20.00
2. *A Catalogue of the Scientific Manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library, Part I: A Critical Handlist of the Scientific Collections*. D. A. King. 1981. Pp. xx + 781 (Arabic), xviii + 18 (English). Paper. \$40.00
3. *Catalog of the Islamic Coins, Glass Weights, Dies and Medals in the Egyptian National Library, Cairo*. N. D. Nicol, R. el-Nabarawy, J. L. Bacharach. 1982. Pp. xxviii + 314 (English); xv (Arabic); 28 plates. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-114-2. \$39.50
4. *Mathematical Astronomy in Medieval Yemen: A Bibliographical Survey*. D. A. King. 1983. Pp. xiv + 98, 10 plates. Paper. ISBN 0-89003-098-7. \$17.00
5. *A Survey of the Scientific Manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library*. D. A. King. 1986. Pp. xiv + 332. Paper. ISBN 0-936770-12-0. \$49.50
Cloth. ISBN 0-936770-14-7. \$59.50
6. *An Historical Bibliography of Egyptian Prehistory*. K. R. Weeks. 1985. Pp. xxii + 138. Paper. ISBN 0-936770-11-2. \$15.00
7. *Greek Painted Pottery from Naukratis in Egyptian Museums*. Marjorie Susan Venit. 1989. Pp. xiv + 300 (85 photos, 391 line drawings, 66 line profiles). Cloth. ISBN 0-936770-19-8. \$49.50

ARCE PUBLICATIONS

8. *Averroes' Middle Commentary on Aristotle's Prior Analytics*. M. M. Kassem. Completed, revised and annotated by C. E. Butterworth, and A. A. Haridi. 1983. Pp. 43 (English) + 382 (Arabic). Paper. ISBN 0-93677-006-6. \$17.50

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